

Hafa Adai!

NMI reports 34th COVID-19-related death; 45 new cases **PAGE 4**

Snyder awarded National Science Foundation REU Research Grant. **PAGE 5**

\$1

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Five judges recuse selves



Naraja



Camacho



Kim-Tenorio



Bogdan



Govendo

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All five Superior Court judges have recused themselves from hearing the criminal case recently filed against Gov. Ralph DLG Torres for the alleged misuse of government funds to purchase airline tickets for premium class travels for himself and first lady Diann T. Torres.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja, and associate judges Joseph Camacho, Kenneth Govendo, Teresa Kim-Tenorio, and

Wesley Bogdan all issued orders of recusal yesterday in the theft, misconduct in public office, and contempt case filed

See 5 on **Page 4**

'Good Friday' trek resumes after 2-year hiatus

The annual pilgrimage to the highest point of Saipan, Mount Tapochau, as part of the Good Friday tradition, will

resume this Friday, April 15.

Many Catholic devotees walk to the top of Mount Tapochau every Good Friday in remembrance of Jesus Christ's journey before his crucifixion.

According to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa website, the Good Friday stations of the cross to Mount Tapochau will resume again this year after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The procession in Chalan Kanoa on Good Friday will also be observed.

The lowering of the cross at

See **HIATUS** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor



BANTALAN PAVILION REHAB

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in black, as well as Sugar Dock Inc. members and the Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program team, are seen turning the sand during the groundbreaking ceremony for a new pavilion at the Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa yesterday.

LEIGH GASES

Story on **Page 3**

WITH NO \$13M FROM CASINO BGRT IN FY 2023

'Legislature should act to find money for retirees' 25% pension'

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislature should act soon, considering that there is no \$13 million in casino Busi-

ness Gross Revenue Tax collection in fiscal year 2023 to pay the 25% pension of government retirees, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig.

Atalig said in an interview Thursday that he mentioned to the Legislature that the 25% pension for the retirees is being funded this year with the use of the community dis-

ter loan the CNMI received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. He said this use of the loan is allowable and is part of the CNMI's

See **PENSION** on **Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL

I stand 12 kilometers from the Ukrainian border and watch as a family arrives through the night.

Page 6



WORLD

As Ukrainian forces dug in, Russia lined up more firepower and tapped a decorated general.

Page 13



LIFE & STYLE

An intimate, sold-out production of "Cabaret" was the big winner at Sunday's Olivier Awards.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



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Local

PSS marks National Library Month with 'Wake Up and Read, CNMI'

By LINDSAY NASH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Wake up and read!

That's the message librarians across the CNMI are sharing today in celebration of National Library Month and "Drop Everything and Read Day."

During the month of April, Public School System schools are celebrating National Library Month with various activities, including today's D.E.A.R. event where everyone is encouraged to take a picture of themselves reading and post their picture on social media with the hashtag #WakeUpAndReadCNMI.

"Imagine waking up with

your family and getting together and reading. What a great way to start your day," said Maria Ornes, the Kagman High School librarian. "Reading doesn't have to be a solitary experience; it's a community experience."

It's that feeling of community and connection the library is focusing on during this year's National Library Month, with the theme "Connect with your library." Libraries across PSS are offering a host of opportunities for students to get involved.

First created in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library As-



LINDSAY NASH
Today is "Drop Everything and Read Day." Take a picture of yourself reading and post your picture on social media with the hashtag #WakeUpAndReadCNMI.

the coding and art clubs to build an interactive media wall display in the library. "The art club is painting a big mural on a frame with electric paint. So, the students will be able to touch images and on the back of the frame, there are motherboards and wires that the coding club has programmed. All so you'll be able to touch an image and a sound will play associated with that image."

Each librarian brings their own passion to their school library, Ornes said. And that's what makes each library so different.

"We need to move beyond the idea that a library is this musty old hall filled with books," Ornes said. "Yes, we have books, and we encourage people to read, but it's so much more dynamic than that."

sociation and libraries across the United States each April.

"Libraries are really the hub and the heart of the school," said Natalie Hill-Beyer, the librarian at Marianas High School. "That's why we celebrate the libraries and promote the things we do in the library. And it's not just during library month—but all year long."

The benefits of reading for students are immeasurable, Ornes said. People pick up and read books for different reasons, but it's a great way to connect with the world.

"Students look for themselves in books and look for situations that they are dealing with and learn how other people deal with the same problem," Ornes said. "It's a great way to learn empathy. Books are so real sometimes. If you can make those connections, and feel what those characters are feeling, it really opens up your mind."

It's that connection that Ornes, Hill-Beyer, and librarians

across the CNMI are working to make in their schools. And that connection goes beyond traditional books.

For example, Ornes helps run a podcasting project at Kagman High School out of the library, complete with audio and video equipment.

At Marianas High School, Hill-Beyer has partnered with



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Wind advisory no longer in effect

The wind advisory is no longer in effect across the Marianas.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, surface observations show that winds continue to subside. This trend will continue through the night, but some areas in the higher elevations of the CNMI could still see occasionally stronger gusts. Gusty conditions are also possible near showers.

As a precautionary measure, the public is advised to use extra caution when driving, especially if operating a high-profile vehicle. Secure outdoor objects. (PR)

SINMI to hold monthly luncheon meeting

The Soroptimist International Chapter of the Northern Mariana Islands will hold its monthly luncheon meeting Thursday, April 14, at noon at the 360 Restaurant. Join us to help continue our work for the "Best for Women" in the CNMI! The club is accepting new members! Come and meet us and see what we are all about! (PR)

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ 4/14/22 – Teaming & JVs – What are they and which is right for your business? The Guam PTAC will discuss the Federal regulations related to these arrangements and discuss ways to use these arrangements effectively.

■ 4/21/22 – Service Contract Act – The Service Contract Act requires contractors and subcontractors performing services on prime contracts in excess of \$2,500 to pay service employees prevailing wages. We will discuss the details of the SCA and how contractors can stay in compliance.

■ 4/28/22 – GovGuam Procurement – The Guam PTAC will explain Government of Guam Procurement, where to find opportunities, and how to submit bids.

Register on our website: <https://www.guamp-tac.com/> (PR)



BASEBALL



**NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022**

Hit. Run. Score!

Baseball has not appeared on the Pacific Games sports program since the 2011 edition in New Caledonia when the Northern Mariana Islands won the gold medal. The host nation will surely be hoping for a repeat performance when Baseball returns in 2022. It most recently appeared at a Pacific Mini Games in Palau back in 2005 when Guam won the event undefeated. Guam also won gold at the 2003 Pacific Games in Fiji, whilst Palau won gold at the 2007 Pacific Games in Samoa, demonstrating that the northern Pacific has a stranglehold on this sport.

GAME IS ON! June 17 – 25, 2022



Participating Countries
7



Competition Schedule
17 – 25 Jun 2022



Competition Venue
Oleai Sports Complex – Francisco "Tan Ko" M. Palacios Baseball Field



Number of Athletes
134

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES










*STOCK PHOTO ONLY



www.northernmarianas2022.com

Sugar Dock pavilion rehab breaks ground

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Sugar Dock Pavilion in Chalan Kanoa, which has served the community as a place of gathering and celebration for over 30 years, is getting a makeover.

Officials, government and non-government representatives, and other community members came together yesterday to break ground on the rehabilitation of the Sugar Dock Pavilion—the first of many projects under the government's Infrastructure Rehabilitation Program.

Prim Tech is the project's contractor. Work on the site will start today, Tuesday, and construction will be complete in about 30 to 45 days, depending on the weather.

The original pavilion has deteriorated over the years due to impacts of Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and Super Typhoon Yutu and 2018. The Bantalan Sugar Dock Inc. rebuilt a makeshift structure at the site, but they wanted to "do this the right way. ... We started seeking the help of the governor and the Infrastructure Recovery Program to help us rebuild the pavilion. ... We thank you all for the support," said former lawmaker Martin Ada of Sugar Dock Inc.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said that that Ada, Keith Ada, and Ray Villagomez—all of them Sugar Dock Inc. members—approached him around October or November last year, and said that they would like him to meet with the group because

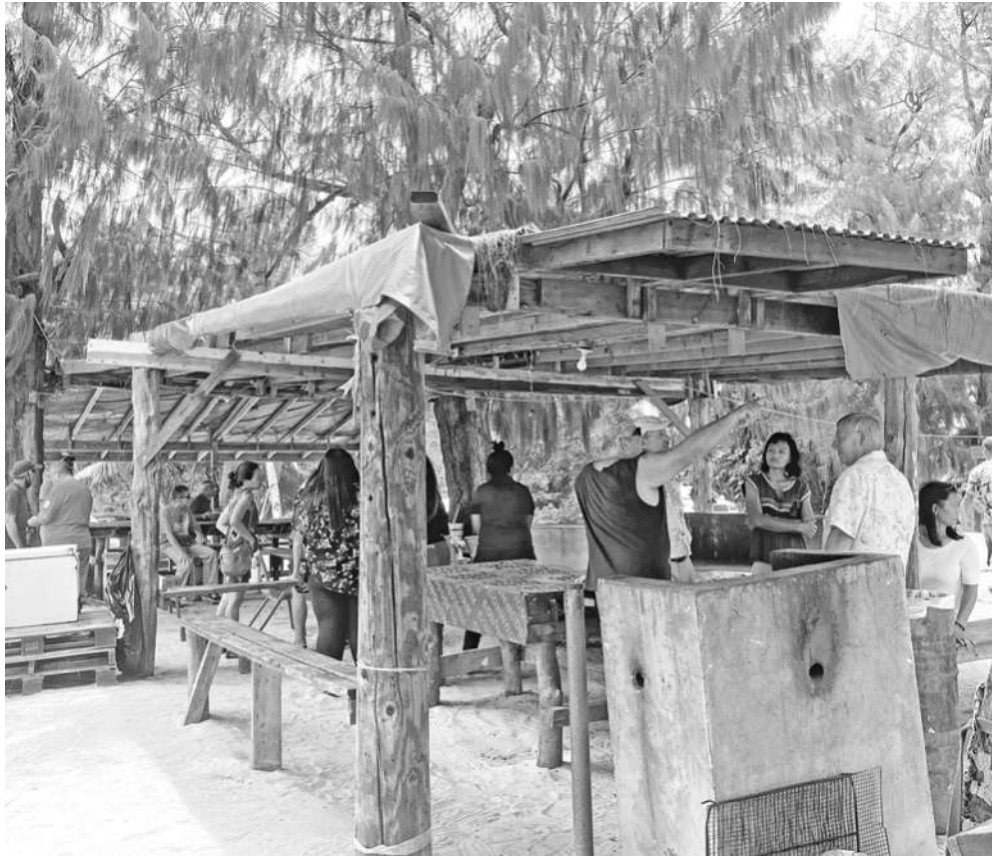
Public meeting on Sugar Dock rehab plans

Members of the community are invited to a public meeting to learn more about proposed plans for the Sugar Dock Reconstruction and Boat Ramp Dredging Project. The meeting will take place this Wednesday, April 13, 2022, onsite at Sugar Dock, starting at 5pm.

The meeting is hosted by the Offices of Precinct 2 Reps. Christina Sablan (D-Saipan) and John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), and the presentation will be led by the Department of Public Works and project contractors.

The environmental assessment and design are at 50% completion, and the community is encouraged to provide feedback.

For more information or to RSVP, contact the Office of Rep. Christina Sablan at 664 8829 or the Office of Rep. John Paul Sablan at 664 8841. (PR)



LEIGH GASES

The makeshift pavilion at Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa that was built by the Sugar Dock Inc. members will be rehabilitated starting today, Tuesday, and will take about 30 to 45 days to complete.

they were concerned about the pavilion. They wanted to see how the governor and the IRP could help.

Initially, Torres thought the rebuilding "would be done in 30 days or 60 days" but it wasn't that straightforward. He said it took them several months to hurdle all the requirement of permitting agencies "because we want to do it right."

"They have a vision, a vision to make Bantalan and their pavilion a better place for everybody," Torres said about Sugar Dock Inc. Among the amenities planned for the pavilion is to install a water station in the pavilion and two or three showerheads. "So it's not just the people in Precinct 2 who can utilize the water, but the whole people of the CNMI and our tourists," Torres added.

IRP coordinator Marianne Concepcion-Teregeyo said that yesterday's turnout is evidence of how much support people have for new in-

frastructure projects. "We're happy that our lead engineer, Mario, has been able to come up with a really strong design. As a certified engineer, you're not going to have a structure like that," she says, pointing at the makeshift pavilion. "It's going to be built as new and as stout as all the Bantalan Inc. members. The Bantalan members are really resilient. You guys have stuck through and are makeshift carpenters with the pavilion that you have. And we're pleased that...we were able to come up with a really good, sturdy design."

According to Teregeyo, this is the first of many projects for the IRP. "The next groundbreaking will be in conjunction with [the Department of Public Lands] for the homestead subdivision program for water and wastewater. Also with [Department of Public Works] and Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] real soon for the Gapan waterline-sewerline project. So we're moving along."

Saipan Tribune

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NMI reports 34th COVID-19-related death; 45 new cases

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. have confirmed the CNMI's 34th COVID-19-related death.

As of April 11, 2022, there were zero individuals hospitalized as a result of COVID-19.

From April 4 to April 10, 2022, there was zero new hospitalizations.

Forty-five additional indi-

viduals have been confirmed positive for COVID-19, bringing the CNMI total to 11,203 cases since March 28, 2020.

Of the 45 cases, 14 were identified on April 4, 2022; eight on April 5, 2022; three on April 6, 2022; 11 on April 7, 2022; three on April 8, 2022; five on April 9, 2022; and one on April 10, 2022.

Of the total number of cases

identified in the CNMI, there have been 11,142 recoveries; 27 active cases; and 34 COVID-19-related deaths.

A total of 10,342 were identified via community testing and 861 via travel testing.

The next report will be on April 18, 2022.

As of April 11, 2022, a total of 22,817 COVID-19 additional/booster vaccine shots

have been administered; of the eligible population, 61.2% have received an additional dose. The vaccination rate is calculated using the 2020 Census population estimates for the CNMI and includes the eligible 5-years-old and older population.

A total of 1,214 COVID-19 tests were conducted April 4 - 10, 2022:

- 393 on April 4, 2022
- 169 on April 5, 2022
- 32 on April 6, 2022
- 278 on April 7, 2022
- 259 on April 8, 2022
- 50 on April 9, 2022
- 33 on April 10, 2022

Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home and isolate when they are sick (except to get medical care), even if they do not have symptoms; rest; stay hydrated; can take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, to relieve symptoms; and live COVID-19 safe.

Report your COVID-19 positive test result online at www.staysafecnmi.com/self-reporting within 5 days of your positive test result for a copy of your quarantine completion certificate.

Individuals experiencing COVID-19 symptoms should stay home and live COVID-19 safe (except to get medical care or get tested for COVID-19). Other options include seeing their health care provider or calling the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. For a guidebook on how to live COVID-19 safe, visit www.staysafecnmi.com/livecovidSAFE.

CHCC continues to encourage the community to get vaccinated if they have not done so, or get their booster shot if they are eligible to help prevent severe illness, hospitalization, or death. People considered high risk (e.g., history of diabetes, high blood pressure, heart dis-

ease, obesity, or cancer, or over the age of 65), immunocompromised persons, or unvaccinated individuals are at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Unvaccinated individuals spread the virus at a higher rate than vaccinated individuals, thereby increasing the spread and risk of serious illness toward other unvaccinated individuals.

Stay up to date with your COVID-19 vaccination, which includes additional doses for individuals who are immunocompromised or booster doses for those who are eligible. Register for COVID-19 vaccines at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or call (670) 682-7468.

Individuals aged 18 or older are eligible to avail of a booster shot; 12- to 17-year-olds can avail of a Pfizer-BioNTech booster shot. Data show that vaccine effectiveness against COVID-19 infection is waning after the primary series, but protection remains high against severe disease and hospitalization.

To view the schedule for Community-Based Testing, visit <https://covidtesting.chcc.health>. No code is required to register. Pre-registration highly recommended as slots are limited. Reserve your slot to get tested before you line up and all slots are filled.

While you wait to get tested or for your test results, stay at home as much as possible and limit your contact with others. (PR)



CADETS CLEAR LADERAN TANKE TRAIL

Cadets of the Division of Customs & Biosecurity clear the trail path at Laderan Tanke as part of their physical training and community service. The trail has been neglected for several months already.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MVA

From Page 1

which they hope to launch in July. The TRIP program basically lays out the details of what's called a travel bubble program—a dedicated tourism channel between two destinations. It will require the participation of airlines, which will get incentives for taking part in the program.

"We expect to award the [request for proposals for airlines] beginning of May so we say July is our starting time. That'll give us 60 days for the marketplace to really get out and hopefully, when we finalize this, restrictions will continue to be pulled back," he said.

So far, Quichocho said MVA has had discussions with Skymark and United Airlines, which have both expressed an interest in resuming their Japan-Saipan route.

"Basically, we've had meaningful communications with two carriers—one being United and the other is Skymark," he said.

However, Skymark has declined to bid once the RFP is put out as it is still recovering from its losses.

"Over the last two years, Skymark has been operating at around 30% to 40% load factor, and lost millions. So at the moment, they are primarily focused on stabilizing their domestic operations, rebuilding

their financial resources, and stemming the losses. At this point, they don't really have an appetite to engage in anything outside of that until they can stabilize the main body of their operation, which is the domestic operations. And so with that they're not able to participate in the trip, as we are targeting for June July period and they'd like to decline if we put out an RFP," Quichocho said.

United, on the other hand, was very engaging, he said.

"We do anticipate to receive some feedback to our initial discussions with them and that was the week prior to last. We anticipate that we'll have some sort of feedback within this week. So it's very encour-

aging right now, the initial feedback from the one carrier that's positive," he said.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, MVA had expected to launch the Japan travel bubble by mid-December to early January with the first step being to inform the Japan Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Health about the CNMI's interest in reopening the route between Japan and the CNMI.

Back in September 2021, TRIP Japan ad hoc committee chair Nick Nishikawa started discussions with the MVA Japan office on how they will carry out the first steps in establishing the Japan travel bubble.

allocate from the general fund for the 25%," Atalig said.

In the meantime, the current law of the casino BGRT is specific for the retirees 25% pension, unless the Legislature does something or pass a new law that generates new revenues that will be for that purpose.

IPI closed its casino in Garapan starting March 17, 2020, as part of the efforts to control the COVID-19 outbreak. The Commonwealth Casino Commission board indefinitely suspended IPI's casino gaming license until it complies with CCC's orders pertaining to five complaints filed by the CCC executive director.

that bill to say any additional revenues collected will be segregated specifically for the 25%.

Atalig said that \$13 million is needed for retirees' one full year of pension so they need to find other resources or maybe reduce some areas of the budget that can be allocated for it. He said this will probably be discussed with the House Ways and Means Committee in the upcoming budget review.

"We hope that we can see additional resources coming through, now that our borders are open and I hope that tourists will start coming back and hopefully will generate additional revenue that we can

act for fiscal year 2023.

"We cannot just pass something and realize revenue. I asked that they increase the sin tax, like cigarettes, soda," he said, adding that there's also a luxury tax.

"There's probably other opportunities to generate more revenue. But we need the Legislature to do that," he said.

Atalig said there is a bill in the House that was passed specifically for health care and that increased the cigarette tax or tobacco tax, but he believes the legislation identifies the use of the additional funds for it.

He said that bill is not going to help the 25% pension for the retirees unless they revise

PENSION

From Page 1

spending plan for that loan.

That loan expires this Sept. 30, Atalig said, so after that date, the CNMI does not have any casino BGRT collections in the new fiscal year, as Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has not been operating.

"That money [casino BGRT] is supposed to go to pay for the retirees pension. It's about \$13 million," he said.

Atalig said he has been sharing that information for the last year—that the CNMI is doing fine in fiscal year 2022, but the Legislature needs to

Tapochau as well.

The holy Masses for the Sacred Triduum—Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil—will take place in most parishes/churches on Saipan.

For a detailed schedule of Mass this holy week in the respective parishes/churches, you may visit the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's website at <https://rcdck.org/2022/04/holy-week-2022-schedule/> (Leigh Gases)

to appear in compliance with a subpoena.

According to the complaint, the first two counts of misconduct in public office goes back to April 12, 2018 when Torres allegedly issued himself, and his wife, first class airline tickets paid for by local funds.

Torres allegedly repeated these violations on June 8, July 11, Aug. 13, Aug. 16, Sept. 25, Nov. 15, Nov. 27, and Dec. 18, 2018; making up the remaining 10 counts of misconduct in public office.

Aside from 12 counts of misconduct, the OAG also charged Torres with theft for the same violations.

Lastly, the OAG is accusing Torres of contempt for his failure to comply with the House Committee on Judiciary & Governmental Operations' subpoena on Dec. 10, 2021.

HIATUS

From Page 1

Mount Carmel Cathedral will be held at 4:30am, which will begin the transfer of the cross from the cathedral to Mount Tapochau.

Arrival at Mount Tapochau will be at 5:30am, where reading of the Passion, Stations of the Cross, and walk to the summit will begin.

On Easter Sunday, there will be a sunrise Mass at Mount

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From Page 1

against Torres by the Office of the Attorney General.

According to Bogdan, he is recusing because used to serve as legal counsel to Torres. Camacho, Naraja, Govendo, and Kim-Tenorio claimed they have a conflict of interest in hearing this case but they did not go into much detail in their orders.

Last Friday, the Office of the Attorney General filed a criminal case against Torres alleging 12 counts of misconduct in public office and one count of theft relating to the issuance of airline tickets for business class, first class, or other premium class travel for himself and/or Diann T. Torres. The case also alleges one count of contempt for failure

Snyder awarded National Science Foundation REU Research Grant



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School alumna Anika Snyder is a junior at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland where she studies Ecology and Conservation.

The Saipan International School's Class of 2020 valedictorian, Anika Snyder, has been awarded a Research Experience for Undergraduates grant to work in the University of Alabama's Re-IMAGINE Life REU program. REUs are competitive summer research programs for undergraduates studying science, engineering, or mathematics and are sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Snyder was selected out of 99 applications for the Re-IMAGINE REU to work with Dr. Mathew Jenny at the University of Alabama from May through July. Jenny's specific project focuses on molecular mechanisms of tolerance and adaptation to environmental pollutants. As a result of

climate change, aquatic organisms are routinely being exposed to warmer temperatures that results in significant cellular stress. Freshwater unionid mussels are one of the most imperiled groups of aquatic organisms and a better understanding of how mussel species respond and adapt to environmental changes will greatly improve conservation and restoration efforts.

To compare the different responses to thermal stress among unionid species with different life-history strategies, Snyder will participate in mesocosm studies this summer in which up to four different unionid species will be exposed to a gradient of thermal challenges over the course of six weeks. During this time, metabolic and physiological measurements will be performed on the mussels. At the end of the six-week thermal challenge, she will have the opportunity to participate in the collection and analysis of several cellular and molecular biomarkers, including those for energy storage, changes in

aerobic versus anaerobic respiration, cellular antioxidant assessment and changes in gene expression.

Snyder is a rising junior at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland where she studies Ecology and Conservation. At SIS she was an AP Capstone Diploma recipient. Her AP Research topic, *The Thermotolerant Advantage of Heat Acclimation in Nerita plicata*, looked at the impact of rising sea temperatures on intertidal snails in the CNMI. Her report was awarded the highest mark

by the College Board that year.

"Anika asked big questions from the start of the class and pursued answering them with vigor," said Whit Altizer, SIS' AP Research teacher. "I am so proud to see her building on the work she did in AP Research while at SIS. We ask students to pursue a topic they are genuinely curious about with the hope they will continue researching it after they leave here. I am incredibly happy that she found a topic in our program that she continues to question." (PR)

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2nd AMENDED MINIMUM BID VEHICLE FOR AUCTION 2016 MAZDA 6, 4 DOOR SEDAN - DARK BLUE COLOR



For more information, please contact the Bank of Guam through its counsel, Robert T. Torres at Telephone Numbers (670) 234-7859 - (670) 234-5750.

Bids will be closed on
THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2022 AT 4:00 P.M.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers

The vehicle will be sold to the highest bidder "as is, where is" without any warranties - 2nd Amended Minimum bid is **\$8,000.00**
All bids must be received by 4:00 p.m.

Please call to schedule an inspection.
The vehicle bid form can be obtained from
Bank of Guam counsel's office at:

ROBERT TENORIO TORRES
Attorney at Law
Chalan Kiya
P.O. Box 503758 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

Four arrested for illegal possession

The Department of Public Safety's Criminal Investigation Division and DPS Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested four males and executed one search warrant last April 8, 2022.

Authorities arrested and executed a search warrant for Jeffery Magofna, who lives in San Jose, and arrested Joey Duenas, also within San Jose; Franklin C. Palacios in San Antonio; and Jeffery Deleon Guerrero in Susupe, Saipan.

All four were charged with illegal possession of a controlled substance and drug trafficking, with bail set at \$100,000 for each, issued



Palacios



Magofna



Guerrero



Duenas

by Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho. All four were later transported to the Department of Corrections where they were booked and detained. (PR)

NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Joe's Own, LLC intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: joe@joesown.com.
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Joe's Own, LLC
PO Box 500748, Saipan MP 96950

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors
Personnel Standing Committee

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Personnel Standing Committee will meet beginning **April 20, 2022, to April 22, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.** at the CUC Conference Room 17, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building in Saipan. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments**
- Discussions
 - Amendments/Revisions of Administrative Orders
 - Performance Evaluations
 - Proposed Classification Systems
 - Survey
 - Divisional Surveys
 - Strengths
 - Challenges
- Executive Session***
- Announcements
- Adjournment

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional Agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.

** All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written and oral testimony on the above Agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three (3) minutes.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Board of Directors
PERSONNEL AND OPERATIONS COMMITTEES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Operations Standing Committee will hold a status conference at the Tinian Mayor's Office on **Monday, April 18, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

On **Tuesday, April 19, 2022**, the Personnel Standing Committee and the CUC Human Resources Office ("HRO") will present an updated CUC Human Resources Rules and Regulations from **9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** The Operations Standing Committee will tour the CUC facilities in Tinian from **12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

AGENDA*

- Preliminary Matters
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- Public Comments**
- Status Conference
 - Meet and Greet
 - Update on Tinian's Current and Forthcoming Projects
 - Updates by Personnel Committee and Human Resources Office
 - Tour
- Executive Session***
- Announcements
- Adjournment

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.

** All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written and oral testimony on the above Agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three (3) minutes.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

Hope at the Ukraine border

By DAVID KHORRAM, MD
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I stand in the Tesco Center in Przemysl, Poland, 12 kilometers from the Ukrainian border, and watch as a new family arrives through the night. This had been a busy shopping mall, but now emptied of every item and mannequin and shelf and carpet and store sign. It is a refugee center for those fleeing the war. This family (or rather the “remnant” of a family—the men stayed behind) stands for a moment just inside the main entrance, holding their bags, looking around wondering where to go, whom to trust, where to sleep, and what tomorrow will bring. Their faces bewildered. There, in the wide shopping-mall hallway, a sleepless volunteer greets them and cuts the plastic covers off of two new foam mattresses, lays them on the speckled vinyl hallway tile and gestures to the family that this is their new “home.” The overhead fluorescent lights will be on all day and all night, never turning off—for safety. This family of five will be at the Tesco Center for some days. How many days, they do not know. Where next, they can’t think about. Weary, they set their things down and try to understand how to arrange themselves on the two mattresses.

As I walk through the center, I am constantly holding back tears. Rows of basic canvas camping cots fill the center, touching one another as far as the eye can see. Thousands of children and women lie on them, some sleeping, some on their phones, tired, unsure. One of the storefronts is now a playroom. There are hand-drawn posters taped to the glass from children around the world, who tonight sleep in their own beds, in their own homes, far from this place and all its sorrow. Another store now holds boxes of donated clothes. People trickle in, welcome to take anything they need. An open area where a jewelry kiosk once stood now has tables with flags hung above them, where volunteers invite the refugees to their countries.



Preparing for the journey from Poland to France.

CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE

“The refugees.” I don’t like that word. There is a homogenizing element to it. When I speak, I deliberately say “those arriving from Ukraine.” They are individuals, just like me, who were going about their lives, just like I am, and then, a soulless son-of-a-bitch decided to start murdering them and leveling their cities. Their beloved cities. Their beloved families.

There are a few medical teams here. The Israelis are in a corner space, a former clothing boutique. The windows are now papered over for privacy and a red cross is taped to the front door. Inside, makeshift shelves and bins are full of donated medication. There are three cots for the sick. “We need Acyclovir,” the doctor says. “The stress is causing a lot of people to get shingles.” Further down the hallway, a space manned by a British doctor contains five lawn chairs serving as hospital beds. Here, the sick lay as the British team tries to contain a rotavirus outbreak of diarrhea emerg-

ing in the Center. There is also a room, formerly a hair salon, where about 30 women sleep. A volunteer in a neon vest sits at the wide doorless entrance keeping watch, just for a sense of security I suppose,

parking lot, we meet Jean-Luc Gadget, a small bespectacled middle-aged Frenchman with a patchy gray-and-black beard and thinning hair. He only speaks French, so Zuza Boczar-Noirbent, our transla-

For all Ukrainians scattered newly across the globe, each day they will ask, of no one in particular, “Will I be able to go back home?”

being so close to the center’s main entrance. There is a canteen where food is free, and a spot where dog and cat food is placed in bowls on the ground. And there is a lot of weariness. In everyone’s eyes.

The next morning, we stop at the Tesco Center again to formally register as medical volunteers. There, in the

tor, helps him register at the tent for drivers. He is here to pick up refugees. Name, copy of passport, organization, destination. These are some of the measures put in place to prevent human trafficking. In the midst of this suffering, evil still finds opportunity. Jean-Luc is approved. Last night he had arrived with a van full of supplies, and he is now ready to transport five or six people back to France. He has come in an all-electric car, because “F*** Putin. I’m not buying his oil.”

We walk with Jean-Luc to the entrance of the main center, so he can speak to the teenage volunteers guarding the door. “I can come back every couple of hours until you find people who want to go to France,” he says to them. “No need, just wait” the volunteers reply. Forty-five minutes later, as we complete our visits with the medical teams and are leaving, a group of three women and three children are just ahead of us moving tentatively toward the exit with their bags, to join

Jean-Luc on a journey across the continent. They have never thought about France in their lives. They have no more idea of where France is, than the average Frenchman, a month ago, would have known where Ukraine is. Perhaps a vague notion, but nothing more. Now they are going. They don’t yet know about the cafés and camembert and vineyards and fields of lavender. A volunteer had simply come by their cots asking for five or six people willing to go, and in a few minutes, they had decided the direction of their lives.

Olga, a middle-aged woman with dyed orange hair, gray roots and a missing front tooth, is wearing white plastic clogs. Her 9-year-old son, Artem, and 12-year-old daughter, Katya, are each clutching a stuffed animal of some sort. Like all the men, their two older brothers and their father have stayed behind in Ukraine to fight the war. There are two young women who look like sisters. I ask Olga how they are all related. She points to the older of the “sisters.” Tatiana is 27

years old, married to Olga’s brother. Tatiana’s younger “sister” is not actually her sister, but her 13-year-old daughter. We all do the math: Tatiana was 14 when she gave birth. This extended family of five is joined by a tall woman in her twenties with long black hair who looks like a model and who has fled with them.

Zuza and I help them pull their collection of suitcases and bags to the car. Zuza, who grew up in

Poland, is our medical team’s translator. When she was 17, she went to France to study at the Sorbonne, and some years later, went back, married a Frenchman, and stayed. Having grown up under communism, she is among the last generation of Poles that speaks some Russian and so she can communicate with this family. She helps give courage to Olga as we walk toward the car, telling her about France, about how she herself had moved there many years ago, about how wonderful it is. Olga keeps moving forward, but her eyes are still darting, her brows furrowed, as we arrive at the van.

Jean-Luc’s van is not a van, but a Tesla SUV. The doors opened like wings. With all the seven seats up, the trunk is tiny, and there is no way the suitcases will all fit. Christopher Briscoe, a photojournalist and my close friend from our time together in Ethiopia, has joined me on this trip. Through Zuza he asks Olga, “As you

fled from your home, what was the one thing that you grabbed to take with you.” “Nothing,” she replies. “We didn’t take anything. The sirens sounded and we just ran.” I realize that everything they have with them at this moment are things that they have gathered here at the refugee center since they arrived yesterday. The huge suitcase. The clothes inside. The curling iron. The makeup. The stuffed animal that Artem and Katya each clutch. The backpacks, and handbags, and extra coats. All of this has been theirs for less than a day.

Seeing that there is no room in the tiny trunk, I suggest they leave these things here—that they can easily collect such things again as soon as they get to France. Olga’s sister-in-law has gone back inside the building. The big suitcase, which is the most problematic, is hers. Olga feels she can’t decide for Tatiana, and so she goes to find her. And as Olga walks away to locate her sister-in-law, Artem and Katya stand without their mother for the first time since they fled. Katya with a timid smile looks to Zuza and asks, “Can you hug me while we wait.” Zuza envelops her, strokes her hair, calms her. She pulls Artem into the embrace. Katya and Artem both close their eyes against Zuza’s chest and shoulder, whom they met only five minutes ago.

Olga returns. Her sister-in-law won’t part with the belongings. And it strikes me that these things, these are the seeds of a new life. They won’t be left behind—can’t be left behind. “Is it okay if we take the things out and put them in the trunk,” I ask, “leaving the suitcase behind? There is no other way.” Okay, Tatiana says. And we gently unpack the suitcase and lay the sacred contents loosely in the trunk. Later, Zuza will say, “It was all shit. I can’t believe she wanted to take that shit with her to France.” And it was. But this was theirs.

With the car packed, Zuza hurriedly gives Olga her phone number. “Call me. You can call me any time. I live in the same part of France where you are going.” “Will I be able to go back home?” Olga asks. “Yes. You will,” Zuza assures her, even though she doesn’t know. How could she know? But what else could she say? Hugs are exchanged, tears are wiped. The three fleeing children and two fleeing mothers and one fleeing model squeeze into the three rows of seats, nearly atop one another. Crammed on their laps and jammed at their feet are all their backpacks and bags and stuffed animals and open sodas and chips and pillows and coats. There is no room to move. Jean-Luc asks, “Who gets carsick?” and hands out plastic bags.

As they get into the car, Jean-Luc stands in the cold changing his shirt at the front of the Tesla, with the hood up to pro-

See HOPE on Page 7



The author, center, meets with other medical volunteers at the Ukraine border.

CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE



The refugee center in Poland near the Ukraine border.

CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE

HOPE

From Page 6

tect his modesty. He will stop every two hours for 20 minutes to sleep. But otherwise, it will be a straight 25-hour drive back to France, where he will deliver Olga and her companions to the families waiting for them. He briefs them about the trip so they will know what to expect. He will pay for everything along the way.

He had told us that one of his ancestors had helped build the Statue of Liberty, and that his ancestor’s name is engraved somewhere on the statue. Later, this same ancestor would build tiny replicas of the Statue of Liberty and they would become very popular in France. According to Jean-Luc, people called the small statues, “gadgets,” after their creator’s last name. Eventually, any small mechanical tool would come to be known as a “gadget,” or so the story goes. “It is easy to remember my last name,” says Jean-Luc, “because like a gadget, I am small.”

And he is small, but aren’t we all? After all, in the face of a humanitarian catastrophe of this scale, what can any one of us do? But in Jean-Luc, and in the others, I find the answer. Jean-Luc can drive. Zuza can translate. Chris can tell the stories. They all embody the idea that “the betterment of the world is accomplished through pure and goodly deeds, through commendable and seemly conduct.” The world can be made better. The simple acts of ordinary people—very ordinary people—are the means. None of them are heroes. They are average men and women, who, restless, uncertain, have arisen to play a small, but intensely meaningful part, on this corner of the world stage. Przemysl is full of such people today. Around me is an intensity that is difficult to grasp: profound anguish and sorrow met by an equal measure of love and kindness. There is hope.

We wave goodbye. Jean-Luc presses a button and the doors of the Tesla come down. Olga’s face is strained holding back the tears. We wait for the electric car to silently start and drive away. And these

six people, who yesterday had run empty-handed from their homes to the sounds of screaming sirens and exploding bombs, now set out to a far-away land, once again so disoriented, so scared, so uncertain, so bewildered, and at the same time, so enveloped by the love and compassion of strangers who are busy wiping their own tears.

We call Jean-Luc and Olga a few times that day. All is well. They have stopped and Jean-Luc has bought them all a hot lunch. Jean-Luc does not speak Ukrainian or Russian, and they do not speak French. But they all manage, and they drive on.

Two days later, I talk to Zuza, who is back in France, and who has been in touch with Olga. Their host family showers them with kindness. Katya and Artem have already started to learn French and English at the local school. Olga sends a photo of them all in front of a botanical garden. She has traded the white

plastic clogs for a fashionable pair of black laceless sports shoes. Her hair is washed and newly dyed (again orange) and she’s wearing sunglasses. “We are here in Paradise,” she writes, “And we thank you and the Lord God for you, Zuza. I would never have gotten into that car without your help.” Olga’s sister-in-law and the model, however, are not so happy. They are, after all, in a strange land. They want to go back to Poland. For all Ukrainians scattered newly across the globe, even for Olga who is happy in France, each day they will ask, of no one in particular, “Will I be able to go back home?”

David Khorram, MD, is the co-founder of Marianas Eye Institute and Brilliant Star Montessori School. He works across the continents in global health and development. He is the director of Global Ophthalmology at the University of Virginia and now lives with his family in Portugal. © David Khorram, 2022

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Earhart, LLC
Suite 208, DHL Building, Middle Road
P.O. Box 505979 CK Saipan, MP 96950

Accountant

Job Duties:

Prepare, review, and analyze financial statements or other accounting records for accuracy, completeness, consistency and compliance with generally accepted accounting principles and other standard accounting procedures. Maintain an accurate and complete recording of receipts, disbursements, income, and expenses utilizing the company's accounting software. Calculate taxes owed. Prepare monthly, quarterly, and annual tax returns, including but not limited to, monthly business gross receipts tax, estimated tax, employer's quarterly withholding tax, 941-SS employer's quarterly federal tax, W-2 wage and tax statement, W-3SS transmittal of wage and tax statements, annual reconciliation of withholding taxes withheld, corporate income tax, ensuring adherence to requirements for payment, filing, and reporting with the federal and local tax government agencies. Prepare checklist for new clients and review accounting engagement tasks. Review billable and non-billable expenses including adjustments to ensure that the coding of billing and expenses are accurate within established practices. Prepare and analyze client's billing and respond to inquiries regarding billing issues and problems. Review check requisitions ensuring validity of transactions, proper authorization and supporting documentation and general ledger coding consistent with company's prescribed policies and procedures for financial operations. Review and calculate employees time record. Maintain and administer payroll data. Provide analytical review of income and operating expenditures by performing periodic reconciliation of accounts. Prepare ad hoc reports and analysis as requested by the management. Perform other duties as required and assigned.

Location of Employment: Saipan

Applicants for this position must have a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy with 60 months work experience as an Accountant. Interested applicants should send their application and resume to the employer (by mail: P.O. Box 505979 CK Saipan, MP 96950, by email: Where_Is_Amelia@hotmail.com).

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: (3) PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

Job Description: Under limited supervision, performs a variety of teaching duties such as plans, prepares and delivers lesson plans according to adapted curriculum, adapts teaching strategies, methods, and instructional materials to meet students' varying needs and interest, establishes and enforces rules for behavior and procedures for maintaining order according to policy, sets up classroom conducive to learning, and reports to the Principal.

Minimum Qualification: Must have Bachelor's degree in Education (may be foreign equiv). 48 Months of Experience as a Teacher.

How to apply: Send resume to:
GOLDEN HARVEST INTERNATIONAL SHOOOL & DAYCARE
Attn: Human Resources
P.O. Box 505704, Saipan, MP 96950



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-052

Opening Date: March 30, 2022
Closing Date: April 13, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal/Budget Officer
DEPARTMENT:	CFO/Accounting
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$56,439.00 - \$76,192.00 per annum, Non-Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Supervises professional and support staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff are trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Supervises day-to-day accounting operations to include: reviewing and approving journal entries; reviewing entries from accounting modules; reviewing trial balance and financial statements; reviewing and maintaining subsidiary ledgers; analyzing problematic accounts; providing guidance to staff; and, monitoring and analyzing revenue and expenditures.
- Attends a variety of meetings and serves as a liaison between the department and other departments, organizations and agencies.
- Prepares a wide variety of financial and analytical reports and statements.
- Prepares annual budget by providing advice and guidance to division managers.
- Prepares budget reprogram and reclassification requests.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field and four years of professional level accounting or finance experience including two years supervisory experience.

Preferred Qualifications: Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field and six years of professional level accounting or finance experience including four years supervisory experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Customer service principles; Supervisory Principles; Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and other applicable laws, rules and regulations. Budgeting Principles; and Basic mathematics.

Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Performing mathematical calculations; Applying accounting procedures and principles; Developing and implementing procedures and standards; Recording, analyzing, verifying, reconciling, and reporting accounting transactions; Preparing and analyzing financial statements and reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- Valid CNMI Driver's License with appropriate class.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

P. O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Fax: (670) 235-5131
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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 22-055

Opening Date: March 30, 2022
Closing Date: April 13, 2022

POSITION TITLE:	Fiscal Administrator
DEPARTMENT:	CFO/Accounting
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$42,411.00 - \$57, 255.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Chief Financial Officer or his/her designee. This class specification represents only the core areas of responsibilities; specific position assignments will vary depending on the needs of CFO/Accounting Division.

Duties:

- The Fiscal Administrator may lead and/or supervise staff to include prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Maintains, monitors and balances assigned funds.
- Performs professional accounting duties, including but not limited to: project accounting, grants reporting and management, Public
- Utilities Commission (PUC) compliance reporting; utility rate case data analysis and reporting, general journal entry preparation and posting/analyzing accounts; assisting with annual audits including preparation of audit schedules.
- Prepares, reviews, and submits a variety of reports, reconciliations, and statements to and from internal departments, financial institutions, and/or Local, State, and Federal agencies.
- Performs month-end and year-end closing of books of accounts;
- Prepares analyses of inventory and participates in periodic physical inventories. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.
- Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

Minimum Requirements:

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting and 4 years of professional level experience related to area of assignment.

Preferred Qualifications: Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field and six years of professional level accounting or finance experience including four years supervisory experience.

Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances. Supervisory principles, practices and techniques (based on assignment); Generally accepted accounting principles; Financial analysis principles and techniques; Advanced mathematical concepts; Research methods; Customer service principles; Modern office technology.

Skills in: interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and other applicable standards. Supervising, monitoring, training and evaluating staff (based on assignment); Providing guidance and leading work activities (based on assignment); Prioritizing activities and meeting deadlines; Preparing financial information, adjustments and entries related to general ledger; Researching, compiling, calculating and reconciling data and information; Researching technical issues, solving problems and providing solutions; Monitoring and maintaining fiscal account information and reporting; Reconciling data, preparing adjustments and posting account and journal entries; Providing attention to accuracy and detail; Preparing reports, correspondence and related fiscal documentation; Providing customer services; Providing technical guidance related to financial systems; Maintaining databases and financial records; Assisting with audits, inventory processes and/or equipment maintenance schedules; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

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Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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Pacific Islands News Association

Attacking the rich means attacking the country

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service*Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speak-tojay@aol.com.*

Go after the hated rich, make up phony stories, hit them hard with taxes on their wealth, listen to the applause, figure on Democrats now winning the midterm elections and pretend it's all about debt reduction and compassion for the average American. That's President Joe Biden for you, skipping the parts about governmental exploitation and possible economic wreckage. He is not always confused after all, just another sly politician.

With maybe a wink if you looked carefully enough, Biden said at a televised press conference (no questions allowed) that billionaires in this country were paying taxes on just 8.2% of their income. That's not true. Biden is counting stock gains not yet converted to money as income. They are therefore not income and, whatever they are worth on the day of collection, they could be worth a fraction of that or nothing the next day. His human targets are not just billionaires, as he wants you to believe, but everyone worth \$100 million or more, and he plans to take at least 20% of "income" with the possibility of more hanky-panky.

Taxes on such assets as stocks are known not as income taxes by anyone educated in the subject, but as wealth taxes. That's what always overreaching Elizabeth Warren cheered for during the Democratic presidential primary even though they have not worked in Europe where most countries have abandoned them. One issue is that they would cause both foreigners and Americans to invest less money in these United States. The consequence could be less capital needed to expand, create jobs, pay employees more and charge consumers less.

And, believe it or not, we right now have the most progressive tax system in the developed world except for tiny Luxembourg. That means the rich in the United States pay higher taxes as a percentage of income per capita and the middle class pay a lot less than in Europe, a model for the left.

It is true as Biden has pronounced, with tears contemplating a run down his cheeks, that our middle class is shrinking, but that has been because people are making more money and moving up in economic status, not because they are making less and moving down. Something else to keep in mind is that 57 percent of our workers paid no federal income tax at all last year, while the

See **ATTACKING** on Next Page

War, economy could weaken Putin's place as leader

NEW YORK (AP)—With the Russian military in retreat from around Kyiv and facing condemnation for brutal tactics, harsh political repression at home and the economy buffeted by Western sanctions, adversaries and allies alike are raising the same question about President Vladimir Putin: Can he hold onto power?

The answer: For now, but maybe not forever.

After 22 years in power, Putin has built a powerful phalanx of loyalists who surround him, both in the Russian military and the secret services. He also has significant support among the Russian people, who are steeped in pro-Putin propaganda through the Russian leader's almost total control of television and other mass communication. Even today, many Russians view his leadership as having delivered greater prestige, prosperity and stability for the country over two decades.

This edifice of protection, the vast wealth Putin controls and the lack of any significant history of palace coups in Russia make either of the obvious means of removing Putin—a military mutiny or a mass popular "color" revolution—almost inconceivable right now.

Yet all strongman states are inherently vulnerable to the unforeseen—especially when they become deaf to the society around them. Just ask Hosni Mubarak.

"For God's sake, this man cannot remain in power," declared President Joe Biden of Putin last month in Poland. It was an unscripted but heartfelt comment as the bloodletting in Ukraine has mounted.

The 69-year-old Putin is up for re-election in 2024, and changes in the Russian constitution conceivably would allow him to remain president until 2036. But the imprisonment of Russia's best-known opposition figure, Alexei Navalny, is just one sign that Putin is not confident enough of his popularity to submit to an actual democratic test.

While there can be no credible polling in a country now effectively under martial law, the number of Russians informed and courageous enough to protest against the war in Ukraine so far has numbered in the thousands, not the hundreds of thousands.

Tens of thousands of affluent citizens, intellectuals and political critics have abandoned Russia rather than remain under the tight controls Putin has imposed, finding escape in Istanbul, Tbilisi or cities in the West. This brain drain no doubt will hurt Russia in the future. But at the moment, their departure removes a possible nexus of opposition from the society.

Of course, history is unpredictable. Few anticipated the rapid dissolution of the Soviet Union at the end of the 1980s and the be-

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI
Associated Press

John Daniszewski, former senior managing editor for international news at The Associated Press, first reported from Eastern Europe in 1987 and has been based in Warsaw, Johannesburg, Cairo, Moscow, Baghdad and London. He is currently AP's vice president for standards and editor at large. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jdaniszewski>



ginning of the 1990s. If Russian casualties in Ukraine are as high as has been reported—15,000 or more dead and three times that wounded in the space of six weeks—those results eventually will begin filtering through the society in spite of official censorship.

Arguably, the USSR's fate was sealed in 1986 after its then-leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, loosened the Communist Party's iron grip on information and set sights on the restructuring of the Soviet Union's stagnating economy in order to better compete with the West. That was the year of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, when the Politburo—after initially trying to cover up the disaster—was forced to disclose it to the Soviet public. The Soviet war in Afghanistan, meanwhile, had turned into a quagmire, leading to withdrawal in 1988-89.

In 1988, when Polish workers loyal to the independent Solidarity union movement launched a series of strikes in coal mines and shipyards, Gorbachev signaled that he would not intervene in one of the Soviet Union's key satellite states. Then-Polish leader Gen. Wojciech Jaruzelski, whose 1981 imposition of martial law had led that country nowhere, opted instead to open up talks with the strikers' leader, Lech Walesa. The result: partly democratic elections.

That in turn set in motion a series of dominoes within the Eastern European countries, with Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Bulgaria, Romania and Albania all seeking to escape Soviet dominance and Communist rule. Before long, the fever had spread to the Baltic countries that were part of the Soviet Union itself, and nationalist emotions flared across the union.

Hardliners in Moscow who had seen enough attempted a coup against Gorbachev, but they were too late. That quickly was

See **WAR** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A reminder of whose idea it was to ‘backfill’

Recently, comments made in the media have suggested that the idea to use American Rescue Plan Act funds to pay for retiree bonuses came from me. This is totally untrue. While I am 100% for the retiree bonus, we need to fund the bonuses the right way, the way that guarantees that the CNMI Office of the Attorney General does not sue retirees and that the CNMI does not jeopardize federal funding by spending ARPA illegally.

We have seen what happens when the Finance secretary pays out money improperly. There are cases for overtime pay and over-the-cap salaries. Maybe not immediately, but eventually the Office of the Attorney General sues for collection. We have seen what happens when the CNMI Retirement Fund makes miscalculations and issues overpayments. Retirees, through no fault of their own, have been forced to return years’ worth of overpayments within incredibly short time periods. This has to stop. As lawmakers, we cannot ignore the law. Retirees should not need to worry about being sued for bonuses that are paid out improperly.

I have supported legislation to fund the initial \$500 bonuses using money that was appropriated to budget items vetoed by the governor. The House legislation not only created a business unit, it also funded it and identified which accounts would be tapped. When we doubled the bonuses from \$500 to \$1,000, the House identified the Marianas Visitors Authority because it was adequately funded both locally and federally. MVA even had the resources to provide \$500 worth of “travel bucks” to tourists.

Back in December of 2021, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres sent a letter to the Legislature where he stated that he intended to fund the bonus with local operations money and that he would address this shortfall with ARPA funds. Finance Secretary David Atalig repeated this message on Feb. 15, 2022, in a meeting before the House Ways and Means Committee. Referring to the plan to use local operations money and then use ARPA to address the temporary shortfall, Secretary Atalig used the term “backfill” several times.

More recently, in a *Saipan Tribune* article that was published on April 5, 2022, Senate President Jude Hofschneider said the idea of funding the retiree bonus indirectly by using it to backfill our local funds “is inconsistent with federal rules as there are certain restrictions on the use of ARPA funds.”

Significantly, however, this same article claims, “[i]t was House vice speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) who

earlier said that the \$850,000 they proposed to remove from MVA for the \$1,000 bonuses for government retirees will be backfilled or returned to MVA through the ARPA funding.” This is totally false.

Sen. Hofschneider noted that the Senate passed Senate Joint Resolution 22-05 (“SJR 22- 05”) on Dec. 15, 2021. SJR 22-05 states, “ARPA, however, prohibits using ARPA federal funds to pay for retirement benefits.” (Page 1, lines 13-17). Significantly, however, despite acknowledging this prohibition, the SJR 22-05 also states:

WHEREAS, the Governor and the Secretary of Finance plan to reprogram the total amount of \$1.3 million for the sole purpose of retiree bonuses and assured the Legislature that programs under the general fund will not be hindered in any way as these funds will be back-filled using ARPA funds under the provisions of Government Loss Revenues, which is subject to state law. (Page 2, lines 16-20).

Sen. Hofschneider also noted that the Senate passed Senate Joint Resolution 22-09 on March 10, 2022 (“SJR 22-09”). SJR 22-09 also states that: “ARPA, however, prohibits using ARPA funds to pay for state retirement benefits including any CNMI retiree bonus.” (Page 1, lines 16-217). Like the previous Senate Joint Resolution, SJR 22-09 also states that:

WHEREAS, the governor and the secretary of Finance plan to reprogram the total amount of \$2.6 million from within the Executive Branch for the sole purpose of retiree bonuses and assured the Legislature that programs within the Executive Branch will not be hindered in any way as these funds will be back-filled using ARPA funds under the provisions of Government Loss Revenues, which is subject to state law. (Page 3, lines 9-13).

I never intended to use ARPA funds to directly or indirectly fund the bonus. I have always maintained that this may violate the terms of ARPA and jeopardize \$500 million in federal assistance. The Senate president claims that he and the Senate are “determined to find the source of funds without jeopardizing an industry known in the CNMI for the last 40 years, and ensure the retirees get their bonus soon.”

If this was true, he should have agreed to meet the House in a conference committee. If this was true, then why leave the decision as to how to fund the retiree bonus to the governor alone? The Legislature, not the governor should decide where the money should come from. The Senate’s legislation relied on the governor and his reprogramming power but without the House appropriating funds into a new business unit, this reprogramming power is not enough. Moreover, after all the deficit

By **BLAS JONATHAN “BJ” T. ATTAO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Rep. Blas Jonathan “BJ” T. Attao is the vice speaker of the House of Representatives in the 22nd Legislature.

spending we have seen by his administration, how is abdicating our “power of the purse” responsible? This is why the House has passed two bills to fund the retiree bonus using \$2.6 million of local funds that we actually identified. This is why the House maintains that we should meet and confer.

The governor takes the credit for a lot of things. This ARPA idea is his and he knows it. Secretary Atalig has been repeating it since February. The Senate has passed not one but two Senate joint resolutions where there is express language that both warns against using ARPA and then clearly attributes the plan to use ARPA illegally to the governor and the secretary. Despite this, in an article published in the *Marianas Variety* on April 6, 2022, MVA board chairwoman Viola Alepuyo stated that she had asked Finance Secretary Atalig “if it is true that MVA’s budget can be ‘backfilled’ with federal ARPA funds.” The article also provides:

“The secretary said he did not know where the House of Representatives was getting that information,” Alepuyo said. “More importantly, the Finance secretary made it clear that he did not know where that information came from—it did not come from him. He did not think that it is legally permissible for Finance to ‘backfill’ MVA’s budget if House Bill 22-95 is approved.”

Is Secretary Atalig indicating that if it was a Senate joint resolution doing the “backfilling” it is legally permissible, but if it is a House bill it is not? If not MVA, then which account does he plan to utilize?

In closing, I just wanted to set the record straight and remind everyone of the “backfilling” that Gov. Torres and Secretary Atalig planned to do and their promise from last December. They may have forgotten that the letters, testimony, and resolutions prove that the “backfilling” was their idea, and they may have forgotten about their promise to the retirees. But when it comes to political games like this, the people will not forget.

ATTACKING

From Page 8

top 10 percent, bringing in less than 50 percent of all income, paid 70 percent of all the taxes.

Our poorer citizens also get a lot more benefits of varied sorts from government than the high and mighty, meaning monetary inequality is nowhere near what it is often said to be.

Of course, average folks still pay a lot in payroll and state and local taxes, the COVID virus has left a mess and our deficit could someday ruin us, but there is good news out there. It is that jobs increased by 431,000 last month as wages grew and unemployment went down to 3.6 percent. Biden contends his shaky plan would reduce the threatening deficit by \$1 trillion over the next decade, but a far more effective plan would be to cut spending, especially given the return of earmarks, also known as pork. This is the practice whereby a member of Congress sells his vote on some issue or the other to get more money for a local project benefitting him or her politically while often being wasteful.

Not a few government programs take more than they give, and reform can reduce deficits, help fight inflation, spur the economy and offer Americans better lives and our children more secure futures. I would suggest Biden and his executive colleagues sweat their way through identifying what spending can and should go away instead of making our amazing country less amazing. If they don’t, the Supreme Court may save us. The words of the Constitution only allow federal taxation on real income, as literacy informs us.

WAR

From Page 8

overturned by the popular outpouring of support led by Boris Yeltsin. On Dec. 31, 1991, both Gorbachev and the Soviet Union had been swept aside when the Soviet Union ended.

Putin, at the time an intelligence agent in East Germany, lived through the events and has drawn appropriate conclusions to maintain control now. Even before the war in Ukraine, he worked to shape public opinion by portraying the Ukrainians as Nazis who threatened Russia. Then, he clamped down on independent media organizations and the few remaining civil society groups.

More recently, he has imposed draconian anti-media laws that ban telling the Russia public anything about the war that conflicts with the Kremlin’s chosen narrative about the “special military operation.” Dissenters and doubters have been branded as scum and gnats, worthy only to be spat out.

Aside from Gorbachev, the sole Soviet leader to be removed was Nikita Khrushchev, whose 11 years in power ended in 1964.

He was forced out by his closest associates in the Communist Party. Disturbed by a series of disastrous economic decisions, a failed initiative to install nuclear weapons in Cuba and the signs that Khrushchev intended to build a cult of personality, fellow members of the Communist Presidium denounced him in a closed meeting while he was away.

When he returned, realizing that he had lost all support, Khrushchev agreed to step aside on fictional grounds of ill health. He soon was rendered a nonperson within the Soviet

Union, as his successor Leonid Brezhnev assumed the leadership. But again, Khrushchev’s bloodless removal was unique.

Could something like that happen to Putin as economic conditions worsen, or if the Ukrainian invasion is a disaster for Russia?

Unlike the Soviet Union, there is little in the way of an institutional party structure that could intervene to topple him. Putin has cronies, yes men, and a coterie of “siloviki”—people of power awash in hard-nosed nationalist thinking of the FSB and military—none of whom so far dare to show the least independence from Putin’s Ukraine war “project.”






Yet losses on the battlefield have already led to an apparent paring-down of military goals, angering and disappointing some anti-Ukraine pundits on Russian TV.

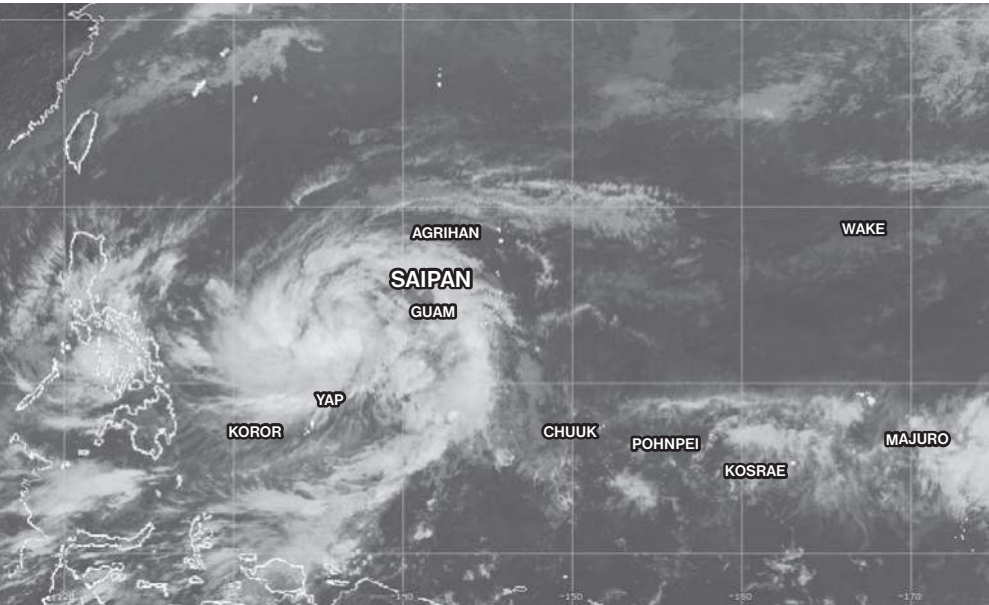
While Putin’s coterie has every incentive to stay close for the time being or risk losing privileges and wealth, if the war in Ukraine drags on for months or years, and Putin’s adventure becomes the mammoth disaster that it appears to be so far, it is almost certain that cracks will emerge.

Absent Russia’s total victory over Ukraine, it already is difficult to imagine the world going back to business as usual with Vladimir Putin. He could find himself boxed into a grinding, open-ended conflict on his border and facing a need to impose more and more repression at home to stifle dissent in a population paying the economic consequences of the invasion.

Aging leaders rarely last forever or have the luxury to leave office on their own terms. Whether it is by elections, revolt or an internal mutiny, the long days of Putin’s rule may well be numbered.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny.		Isolated showers. Mostly cloudy		Isolated showers. Partly sunny.	
83°	77°	84°	76°	84°	77°	84°	76°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 9:14 AM, MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Fresh to strong southeast winds, mostly cloudy skies, and isolated showers are seen over the Marianas this morning. But satellite shows a mass of showers and thunderstorms approaching from the southwest. Combined seas range from 7.5 ft at Ritidian to 10 ft at Ipan. TS Malakas is centered about 550 miles west of Guam, moving away to the WNW.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

onds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	27 / 25 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms/Wind	28 / 26 °F	
Yap	Thunderstorms/Wind	29 / 26 °F	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	28 / 25 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	28 / 26 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	06:05 AM	18:30 PM
Wednesday	06:04 AM	18:31 PM
Thursday	06:03 AM	18:31 PM
Friday	06:03 AM	18:31 PM
Saturday	06:02 AM	18:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	02:51 PM	14:31 PM
Wednesday	-	03:33 PM	15:24 PM
Thursday	-	04:13 PM	16:17 PM
Friday	-	04:52 PM	17:10 PM
Saturday	-	05:31 PM	18:05 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain/Wind	19 / 16 °F	
Beijing	Rain/Wind	19 / 16 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	27 / 23 °F	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	28 / 22 °F	
London	Showers	18 / 19 °F	
Los Angeles	Sunny	20 / 10 °F	
Manila	Scattered Thunderstorms	32 / 25 °F	
Melbourne	Partly Cloud	18 / 10 °F	
Miami	Partly Cloud	24 / 24 °F	
New York	AM Showers	23 / 11 °F	
Osaka	Sunny	25 / 16 °F	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	21 / 12 °F	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	21 / 13 °F	
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 7 °F	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	25 / 14 °F	
San Francisco	M Rain/Wind	13 / 8 °F	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	21 / 12 °F	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	24 / 15 °F	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	24 / 14 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
05:33 AM	High Tide	1.71	
11:13 AM	Low Tide	1.10	
3:56 PM	High Tide	1.52	
10:57 PM	Low Tide	0.22	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 28, 2022

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:40AM	7:20AM	1, 3, 5	UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 5
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 6, 7	UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	6, 7
				UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	6:35AM	8:35AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	R110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:40AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 5 via Guam	UA184/116	10:40pm	6:16am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/193	6:40AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	10:40pm	8:46am+1	2 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/116	10:55pm	6:16am+1	1, 3 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
RS112	3:15PM	7:00PM	3, 6	RS111	8:15AM	1:35PM	3, 6
TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7	7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6	7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3	TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6	OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:00PM	5:20PM	3, 7	7C3452	8:00AM	1:00PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM		1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri Daily	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM		2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO GUAM				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Guam magazine names 2021 Executive of the Year nominees



Espaldon Jr.



Johnson



Krise



Nguyen



Song



Untalan

BARRIGADA, Guam—*Guam Business Magazine* announced yesterday the nominees for the 2021 *Guam Business Magazine* Executive of the Year. The annual Executive of the Year award program recognizes executives who have made outstanding contributions to the business communities of Micronesia and who have raised the bar in their fields.

The nominees are:
 ■ Ernesto V. "Jun" Espaldon Jr., president of Quick Services Foods Inc., which does business as Wendy's and Cold Stone Creamery;
 ■ Herbert J. Johnston Jr., education director, GCA Trades Academy; and president, Guam Association for Career & Technical Education;
 ■ Thomas W. Krise, president of the University of

Guam; chairman of the Research Corporation of UOG; and executive secretary of the UOG Endowment Foundation;
 ■ Dr. Hoa V. Nguyen, co-founder, American Medical Center;
 ■ Nick Song, president of Haevichi Hospital-ity Guam Inc., which does business as the *Westin* Resort Guam;
 ■ Edward G. Untalan, exec-

utive vice president and Retail Banking region manager for the *Guam* and CNMI region of First Hawaiian Bank.

The winner will be revealed at the May 7 Executive of the Year reception at the Hyatt Regency Guam, together with the release of the May-June issue of *Guam Business Magazine*, which will feature the awardee on the cover.

Since 1983, the title of Ex-

ecutive of the Year has been awarded annually, recognizing executives who have made outstanding contributions to the business communities of Micronesia, have raised the bar in their fields and are considerably involved in the community.

Due to COVID-19, no award was made last year.

However, *Guam Business Magazine*, the Executives of the Year, and supporters of the program awarded checks in January 2021 through the "Guam Business Magazine New Year, New Hope Initiative" to five non-profits that operate in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, for a total of \$20,500 in donations.

Past Executive of the Year recipients include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises Inc. (1983); John M. Borlas of IT&E Overseas Inc. (1984); Philip J. Flores of BankPacific (1985); Mark V. Pangilinan of M.V. Pangilinan Enterprises Inc. (1987); the late Kenneth T. Jones of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1994); the late Edward M.

Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1995); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); Joseph M. Crisostomo of Cars Plus LLC, Cycles Plus and Payless Car Rental (2004); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); Lee P. Webber of MDA Guam (2007); Laura-Lynn V. Dacanay of First Hawaiian Bank (2008); Jerry Cho Yee Tan of TanHoldings Inc. (2009); Lourdes A. "Lou" Leon Guerrero of Bank of Guam (2010); Jay R. Shedd of IT&E (2011); Jerrold C. Johnson of Hawaiian Rock Products (2012); George Chiu of TanHoldings (2013); Norman T. Tenorio of Joeten Enterprises Inc., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc., Tropical Instant Press Inc., Saipan Shipping Co., Saipan Stevedore and Advance Carrier (2014); Jeffrey B. Jones of Triple J Enterprises Inc. (2015); and Jose C. "Joe" Ayuyu of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan, RJ Corp. and RJ Guam LLC (2016). (PR)

Amazon seeks to overturn union win, says vote was tainted

By HALELUYA HADERO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Amazon is seeking to overturn the historic union victory at one of its New York City warehouses, arguing in a legal filing Friday that union organizers and the National Labor Relations Board acted in a way that tainted the results. It now wants to redo the election.

The e-commerce giant listed 25 objections in the filing obtained by The Associated Press, accusing organizers with the nascent Amazon Labor Union of intimidating workers to vote for the union, a claim an attorney representing the group has called "patently absurd."

"The employees have spoken," Eric Milner, the attorney, said in a statement Thursday after Amazon's initial planned objections were made public in another legal filing.

"Amazon is choosing to ignore that, and instead engage in stalling tactics to avoid the inevitable—coming to the bargaining table and negotiating for a contract" on behalf of the workers, he said.

Elon Musk no longer joining Twitter's board of directors

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Tesla CEO Elon Musk won't be joining Twitter's board of directors as previously announced. The tempestuous billionaire remains Twitter's largest shareholder.

Twitter CEO Parag Agrawal tweeted the news, which followed a weekend of Musk tweets suggesting possible changes to Twitter, includ-

Warehouse workers in Staten Island cast 2,654 votes—or about 55%—in favor of a union, giving the fledgling group enough support to pull off a victory last Friday.

In one objection, Amazon said organizers "intentionally created hostile confrontations in front of eligible voters," by interrupting the mandatory meetings the company held to persuade its employees to reject the union drive. In a filing released earlier this month, the company disclosed it spent about \$4.2 million last year on labor consultants.

In another objection, Amazon targeted organizers' distribution of cannabis to workers, saying the labor board "cannot condone such a practice as a legitimate method of obtaining support for a labor organization." New York legalized the recreational use of marijuana last year for those over 21. Milner, the attorney representing the union, said Amazon is grasping at straws.

Distributing cannabis "is no different than distributing free

t-shirts and it certainly did not act to interfere with the election," he said.

The company also accused organizers of improperly polling workers.

The retailer had initially signaled it planned to challenge the election results because of a lawsuit the NLRB filed in March, in which the board sought to force Amazon to reinstate a fired employee who was involved in the union drive.

Amazon pointed to the lawsuit in one of its objections filed Friday, saying the regional NLRB office that brought the suit "failed to protect the integrity and neutrality of its procedures," and had created an impression of support for the union by seeking reinstatement for the former employee, Gerald Bryson.

"Based on the evidence we've seen so far, as set out in our objections, we believe that the actions of the NLRB and the ALU improperly suppressed and influenced the vote, and we think the election should be conducted again so that a fair and broadly repre-

ing making the site ad-free. Nearly 90% of Twitter's 2021 revenue came from ads.

"Elon's appointment to the board was to become officially effective on 4/9, but Elon shared that same morning that he would not be joining the board," Agrawal wrote in a reposted note originally sent to Tesla employees. "I believe this is for the best."

Agrawal didn't offer an explanation for Musk's apparent decision, although he dropped one major hint. The Twitter board "believed having Elon as a fiduciary of the company, where he, like all board members, has to act in the best interests of the company and all our shareholders, was the best path forward," he wrote.

sentative vote can be had," Kelly Nantel, an Amazon spokesperson, said in a statement Friday.

Bryson was fired in the early days of the pandemic after leading a protest calling for the company to do more to protect workers against COVID-19. While off the job during the protest, Bryson got into a dispute with another worker and was later fired for violating Amazon's vulgar-language policy, according to his attorney Frank Kearl.

China closes Guangzhou to most arrivals as outbreak spreads



Workers in protective gear watch over residents line up for the COVID-19 test at a residential block, Monday, April 11, 2022, in Guangzhou in south China's Guangdong province.

BEIJING (AP)—The manufacturing hub of Guangzhou closed itself to most arrivals Monday as China battles a major COVID-19 surge in its big eastern cities.

Shanghai has taken the brunt of the surge, with another 26,087 cases announced on Monday, only 914 of which showed symptoms. The city of 26 million is under a tight lockdown, with many residents

confined to their homes for up to three weeks.

No such lockdown has yet been announced for Guangzhou, a metropolis of 18 million northwest of Hong Kong that is home to many top companies and China's busiest airport. Just 27 cases were reported in the city on Monday.

However, primary and middle schools have been switched to online after an initial 23 local

infections were detected last week. An exhibition center was being converted into a makeshift hospital after authorities said earlier they would begin citywide mass testing.

Only citizens with a "definite need" to leave Guangzhou can do so, and only if they test negative for the virus within 48 hours of departure, city spokesperson Chen Bin said in a social media announcement.

Nation

2 killed and 10 wounded in Cedar Rapids nightclub shooting

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)—A shooting inside a crowded Cedar Rapids nightclub left a man and a woman dead and 10 people wounded early Sunday, authorities said.

Cedar Rapids Police Chief Wayne Jerman said investigators believe two men fired more than a dozen shots inside the Taboo Nightclub and Lounge just before 1:30 a.m. Sunday. He said officers who were just outside the club because of an earlier incident rushed inside just as 100-150

people streamed out of the bar and found the victims.

Officers helped treat the people who were wounded and rushed several of the victims to hospitals in squad cars.

The names of the man and woman who died were not released Sunday. Jerman said one of the people who were injured was in critical condition Sunday afternoon while the other injuries, which were all related to the gunfire, ranged from serious to minor.

The gunmen likely escaped

as the crowd rushed out of the nightclub. Police were searching for suspects Sunday afternoon and no arrests had been reported.

Jerman said police haven't determined the motive for the shooting but investigators believe one of the victims was targeted.

"This is another mindless and senseless gun-related incident involving a reckless disregard for human life," Jerman said. "I remain livid and angered at the continued and blatant disregard and lack of

respect for human life that continues. That said, I want to reassure the residents of this city that Cedar Rapids is a safe city."

The club's owner, Mod Williams, told the Cedar Rapids Gazette that he is working with police.

"It's an extremely disturbing thing that happened and currently I'm just being as cooperative as I can to help the police," Williams said.

Mayor Tiffany O'Donnell expressed dismay about the shooting and lauded the police re-

sponse. She also urged residents to speak out against violence.

"Shock, anger, grief, disappointment—just a few of the emotions that I'm sure we all feel today," O'Donnell said. "And I can personally say that

as a mother my heart goes out to those moms and dads today who are having the worst day of their lives. To the families of the injured, we are with you and we are praying for a swift recovery."

ACROSS THE NATION

Judge rules US military can't discharge HIV-positive troops

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—U.S. service members who are HIV-positive cannot be discharged or barred from becoming an officer solely because they're infected with the virus, a federal judge in Virginia ruled. Advocates say it's one of the strongest rulings in years for people living with HIV. The cases involved two service members that the Air Force attempted to discharge, as well as Sgt. Nick Harrison of the D.C. Army National Guard, who was denied a position in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps. U.S. District Judge Leonie Brinkema said in a written order dated April 6 that her ruling bars the military from taking those actions against the plaintiffs and any other asymptomatic HIV-positive service member with an undetectable viral load "because they are classified as ineligible for worldwide deployment ... due to their HIV-positive status. Peter Perkowski, an attorney for the plaintiffs, called it "a landmark victory—probably the biggest ruling in favor of people living with HIV in the last 20 years."

a statement. Ramirez went on to say, "It is my hope that with the dismissal of this case it is made clear that Ms. Herrera did not commit a criminal act under the laws of the State of Texas." (AP)

Police said teen didn't need medical help before his death

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—A community task force reviewing the death of a Black teenager who was restrained for more than 30 minutes at a Kansas juvenile detention center found that an officer changed his answers on a form that otherwise would have led police to take the teen to a hospital instead of booking him into the detention center. An official who oversees admissions to the Sedgwick County Juvenile Intake and Assessment Center, Jodi Tronsgard, told the task force last month that the officer initially reported that there were signs that 17-year-old Cedric Lofton needed medical attention before the officer changed his answers, The Wichita Eagle reported. "What I learned after the intake is that the officer had presented this form and initially said yes, that there were signs of acute illness that appear to need immediate medical care."

Texas DA says murder charge in abortion case will be dropped

A Texas district attorney said Sunday that he will ask a judge to dismiss a murder charge against a woman over a self-induced abortion. Lizelle Herrera was arrested Thursday in Rio Grande City, a community of about 14,000 people along the Mexico border, after a Starr County grand jury indicted her on March 30 for murder for allegedly causing "the death of an individual ... by self-induced abortion." District Attorney Gocha Allen Ramirez said Sunday that his office would move to dismiss the charge on Monday. "In reviewing this case, it is clear that Ms. Herrera cannot and should not be prosecuted for the allegation against her," Ramirez said in

New York City Mayor Eric Adams tests positive for COVID-19

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City Mayor Eric Adams tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, his 100th day in office, according to a spokesperson. The first-term Democrat woke up with a raspy voice Sunday and took a PCR test that came back positive, spokesperson Fabien Levy said in a statement. Earlier Sunday, Levy had tweeted that Adams had taken a rapid test that came back negative but took the additional test out of an abundance of caution. Adams has no other symptoms but has canceled all public events for the week and will be taking antiviral medications and working remotely, Levy said.

America's homeless ranks graying as more retire on streets

PHOENIX (AP)—Karla Finocchio's slide into homelessness began when she split with her partner of 18 years and temporarily moved in with a cousin.

The 55-year-old planned to use her \$800-a-month disability check to get an apartment after back surgery. But she soon was sleeping in her old pickup protected by her German Shepherd mix Scrappy, unable to afford housing in Phoenix, where median monthly rents soared 33% during the coronavirus pandemic to over \$1,220 for a one-bedroom, according to ApartmentList.com.

Finocchio is one face of America's graying homeless population, a rapidly expanding group of destitute and desperate people 50 and older suddenly without a permanent home after a job loss, divorce, family death or health crisis during a pandemic.

"We're seeing a huge boom in senior homelessness," said Kendra Hendry, a caseworker at Arizona's largest shelter,



Karla Finocchio, 55, tears up as she talks about being a homeless woman on the streets, Monday, Jan. 24, 2022, in Phoenix.

where older people make up about 30% of those staying there. "These are not necessarily people who have mental illness or substance abuse problems. They are people being pushed into the streets by rising rents."

Academics project their numbers will nearly triple over the next decade, challenging policy makers from Los Angeles to New York to imagine new ideas for sheltering the last of the baby

boomers as they get older, sicker and less able to pay spiraling rents. Advocates say much more housing is needed, especially for extremely low-income people.

Navigating sidewalks in wheelchairs and walkers, the aging homeless have medical ages greater than their years, with mobility, cognitive and chronic problems like diabetes. Many contracted COVID-19 or couldn't work because of pandemic restrictions.

acteristics unique to certain communities, some advocates said. It may also perpetuate the "model minority" myth of Asians being affluent and well-educated.

"Asian Americans have the largest income inequality than any other racial groups in the U.S. and the overall overcount likely masks the experiences of Asian ethnic groups who were more vulnerable to being undercounted," said Aggie Yellow Horse, an assistant professor of Asian Pacific American Studies at Arizona State University.

Almost four dozen U.S. House members this month asked the Census Bureau to break down the accuracy of the count of Asian residents by subgroups. Asians in the U.S. trace their roots to more than 20 countries, with China and India having the largest representation. But the bureau has

Experts: Asian population overcount masks community nuances

PHOENIX (AP)—Jennifer Chau was astonished last month when the U.S. Census Bureau's report card on how accurately it counted the U.S. population in 2020 showed that Asian people were overcounted by the highest rate of any race or ethnic group.

The director of an Asian American advocacy group thought thousands of people would be missed—outreach activities had been scratched by the coronavirus pandemic, and she and her staff feared widespread language barriers and wariness of sharing information with the government could hinder participation. They also thought recent attacks against Asian Americans could stir up fears within the Asian population, the fastest-growing race or ethnic group in the U.S.

"I'm honestly shocked," said Chau, director of the Ari-

zona Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander For Equity Coalition.

But Chau and other advocates and academics also believe the overcounting of the Asian population by 2.6% in the once-a-decade U.S. head count may not be all that it seems on the surface. They say it likely masks great variation in who was counted among different Asian communities in the U.S. They also believe it could signal that biracial and multiracial residents identified as Asian in larger numbers than in the past.

The specifics are difficult to determine because all Asian communities are grouped together under the same race category in the census. This conceals the wide variety of income, education and health backgrounds between subgroups and tends to blur char-

Asia

Pakistani PM vows to fight after Parliament ousts him



Supporters of ousted Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan party take part in a rally in Lahore, Pakistan, Sunday, April 10, 2022. AP

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The ouster of Prime Minister Imran Khan in a parliamentary no-confidence vote early Sunday set Pakistan on an uncertain political path, with his supporters taking to the streets in protest and the political opposition preparing to install his replacement.

Tens of thousands of Khan supporters marched in cities across Pakistan, waving large party flags and vowing support. The youth, who make up the backbone of Khan's supporters, dominated the crowds.

In the southern Arabian Sea port city of Karachi more than 20,000 shouted slogans promising Khan's return to power. In the capital of Islamabad, the lights from thousands of supporters lit up the night sky as Khan made his way through the crowd atop a brightly colored truck.

Khan was brought down after a day of drama and often vitriolic remarks. His supporters accused Washington of orchestrating his ouster and his party walked out of Parliament shortly before the vote. In the end, 174 lawmakers in

the 342-seat Parliament voted to depose him, two more than the required simple majority.

Khan's successor is to be elected and sworn in by Parliament on Monday. The leading contender is Shahbaz Sharif, a brother of disgraced former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Shahbaz Sharif heads the largest party in a diverse alliance of opposition factions that span the spectrum from the left to radically religious. Khan's nominee for prime minister will be his foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

who was then president and is currently prime minister, were credited with the victory.

Shanghai discharges thousands of patients, boosts supplies

BEIJING (AP)—Shanghai on Sunday discharged over 11,000 recovered COVID-19 patients and health authorities emphasized that they must be allowed to return home despite the lockdown that has severely restricted movement in China's largest city. "We hope their family and community will not worry about them or discriminate against them," said Wu Jinglei, director of the Shanghai Health Commission. The city of 26 million people reported 1,006 confirmed infections and nearly 24,000 asymptomatic cases in the last 24 hours. Shanghai has been under lockdown since March 28, and authorities said Saturday that the strict measures would be lifted in areas with no new cases in the last 14 days following another round of mass testing.

Sri Lankans occupy president's office entrance for 2nd day

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan protesters occupied the entrance to the president's office for a second day on Sunday, demanding Gotabaya Rajapaksa resign over the debt-ridden country's worst economic crisis in memory. Hundreds of demonstrators weathered heavy rain with raincoats and umbrellas and chanted anti-government slogans. Some called for the entire Parliament to disband to make way for a younger leadership. "We will stay on, we will leave only when we have chased them out," Sanjeeva Pushpakumara, a 32-year-old ex-soldier, said of Rajapaksa, his influential family and all the lawmakers. Pushpakumara said he fought in the last stages of Sri Lanka's civil war with ethnic Tamil rebels, which government soldiers won in 2009 after 2 1/2 decades. Both Rajapaksa, who served as a powerful defense bureaucrat, and his older brother Mahinda,

ASIAN BRIEFS

India extends COVID-19 boosters to all adults; some must pay

NEW DELHI (AP)—India began offering booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine to all adults on Sunday but limited free shots at government centers to front-line workers and people over age 60. The doses, which India is calling a "precautionary" shot instead of a booster, are available to people nine months after they receive their second jab, the Health Ministry said in a statement Friday. Those outside the two priority categories will need to pay for the shots at privately run facilities, the ministry said. Unlike other countries, where many people receive a different vaccine as a booster, most Indians have received the same type—in most cases the AstraZeneca vaccine produced by India's Serum Institute, the world's largest vaccine maker. It accounts for nearly 90% of all doses that have been administered in India, even though emergency approvals have been given for eight vaccines.

World

Ukrainian defenders dig in as Russia boosts firepower

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—As Ukrainian forces dug in on Sunday, Russia lined up more firepower and tapped a decorated general to take centralized control of the war ahead of a potentially decisive showdown in eastern Ukraine that could start within days.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy warned Sunday in his nightly address to the nation that the coming week would be as crucial as any in the war, saying "Russian troops will move to even larger operations in the east of our state."

He also accused Russia of trying to evade responsibility for war crimes in Ukraine.

"When people lack the courage to admit their mistakes, apologize, adapt to reality and learn, they turn into monsters. And when

the world ignores it, the monsters decide that it is the world that has to adapt to them," Zelenskyy said.

"The day will come when they will have to admit everything. Accept the truth," he added.

Experts have said that the next phase of the battle may begin with a full-scale offensive. The outcome could determine the course of the conflict, which has flattened cities, killed untold thousands and isolated Moscow economically and politically.

In an interview that appeared on "60 Minutes" Sunday night, Zelenskyy said Ukraine's fate as the war shifts to the south and east depends on whether the United States will help match an expected surge in Russian weaponry in those regions.

"To be honest, whether we will be able to (survive) depends on this," said Zelenskyy, speaking through a translator. "I have 100% confidence in our people and in our armed forces. But unfortunately, I don't have the confidence that we will be receiving everything we need."

Zelenskyy thanked President Joe Biden for U.S. military aide to date but added that he "long ago" forwarded a list of specific items Ukraine desperately needed and that history would judge Biden's response.

"He has the list," Zelenskyy said. "President Biden can enter history as the person who stood shoulder to shoulder with the Ukrainian people who won and chose the right to have their own country. (This) also depends on him."

Israeli forces shoot, kill 2 Palestinians; one unarmed

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Israeli forces shot and killed two Palestinians, including an unarmed woman, in confrontations across Israel and the occupied West Bank on Sunday, Israeli and Palestinian officials said. It was the latest in a growing wave of violence that has broken out during the holy month of Ramadan.

The shootings came as Israeli troops combed the northern West Bank city of Jenin and the surrounding area, home to two of the Palestinians who staged deadly attacks against Israelis in recent weeks. Ramadan this year converges with major Jewish and Christian holidays. Protests during Ra-

madan last year boiled over into an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza militants.

"We will be at every place at any time as needed to cut off these terror attacks. Israel is going on the offensive," Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett told his Cabinet.

Four attacks by Palestinians in recent weeks have killed 14 people in one of the deadliest bursts of violence against Israelis in years. In response, Israel has stepped up its military activity in the West Bank.

At a military checkpoint near the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Israeli soldiers opened fire at a woman who the army said failed to heed calls to stop and ignored warn-

ing shots fired into the air.

The army said that soldiers aimed at the woman's lower body. But the Palestinian Health Ministry said the woman later died from her injuries in a hospital. Local news reports said she was a 47-year-old mother of six. The Israeli military confirmed the woman was found to be unarmed and said the incident was under investigation.

Palestinian assailants often carry out attacks at checkpoints in the West Bank. But Palestinians and human rights groups say the military often uses excessive force and in some cases has injured or killed people who were not involved in violence.

In France, it's Macron vs. Le Pen, again, for presidency

PARIS (AP)—Incumbent Emmanuel Macron will face far-right nationalist Marine Le Pen in a winner-takes-all runoff for the French presidency, after they both advanced Sunday in the first round of voting in the country's election to set up another head-to-head clash of their sharply opposing visions for France.

But while Macron won their last contest in 2017 by a landslide to become France's youngest-ever president, the same outcome this time is far from guaranteed. Macron, now 44, emerged ahead from Sunday's first round, but the runoff is essentially a new election and the next two weeks of campaigning to the April 24 second-round vote

promise to be bruising and confrontational against his 53-year-old political nemesis.

Savvier and more polished as she makes her third attempt to become France's first woman president, Le Pen was handsomely rewarded Sunday at the ballot box for her years-long effort to rebrand herself as more pragmatic and less extreme. Macron has accused Le Pen of pushing an extremist manifesto of racist, ruinous policies. Le Pen wants to roll back some rights for Muslims, banning them from wearing headscarves in public, and to drastically reduce immigration from outside Europe.

On Sunday, she racked up her best-ever first-round tal-

ly of votes. With most votes counted, Macron had just over 27% and Le Pen had just under 24%. Hard-left leader Jean-Luc Melenchon was third, missing out on the two-candidate runoff, with close to 22%.

Macron also improved on his first-round showing in 2017, despite his presidency being rocked by an almost unrelenting series of both domestic and international crises. They include Russia's war in Ukraine that overshadowed the election and diverted his focus from the campaign.

With polling suggesting that the runoff against Le Pen could be close, Macron immediately started throwing his energies into the battle.

Overdrive

World's electric vehicle fleet will soon surpass 20 million



The 2022 Chevrolet Bolt EUV.

CHEVROLET/TNS

By COLIN MCKERRACHER
BLOOMBERG NEWS

The world is about to pass another important milestone in electric vehicle adoption: 20 million plug-in vehicles on the road globally, come June, according to BNEF estimates. That's remarkable growth from only 1 million EVs on roads in 2016.

In the second half of 2022, almost a million EVs a month will be added to the global fleet, according to BNEF estimates. That's about one every 3 seconds. Vehicles eventually get retired from the fleet due to age, wear-and-tear, crashes and battery degradation. But that's not a big part of the EV story so far, mostly because the majority of EVs in the global fleet were sold in the past 18 months. By the end of 2022, BNEF is expecting over 26 million plug-in vehicles on the road.

The speed of growth is much faster than many incumbents in the automotive and oil industries were expecting just a few years ago. In BP's 2016 outlook for example, the

company expected a fleet of 71 million plug-in vehicles on the road by 2035. Based on the latest sales data, BNEF now expects that to be achieved by 2025, a full 10 years ahead of schedule.

Taking a look at the geographic breakdown of the vehicles underscores how just a few regions are driving most of the adoption. China accounts for 46% of the total sales to date, followed by Europe at 34%. North America is a distant third at 15%, but fresh policy support should get that EV market moving this year and next. All the remaining countries combined account for just 5% of the global EV fleet.

Most of the world's plug-in vehicles are fully electric, but there are also 5.3 million plug-in hybrids. Europe accounts for most of them. The plug-in hybrids have helped automakers meet Europe's increasingly stringent targets for reducing carbon emissions from vehicles. At BNEF, we're expecting the market to shift away from plug-in hybrids in the coming years, as governments

cut subsidies for them, and as automakers roll out their latest fully electric models.

EV adoption in Japan—the largest auto market after China, the U.S. and Europe—has been very slow. That should start to change soon as Japanese automakers launch new battery electric models in the popular mini “kei car” segment. Kei is short for keijidōsha, meaning light automobile, and they account for a third of all sales in the country. Nissan and Mitsubishi plan to bring electric kei models to market this year, followed by Honda in 2024, and Toyota subsidiary Daihatsu in 2025. Electric vehicle adoption in neighboring South Korea has been brisk, with EVs hitting nearly 15% of sales there at the end of 2021, driven by strong model offerings from domestic champions Hyundai and Kia.

Attention will eventually shift to the big emerging auto markets in the world, like India, Brazil, Mexico and Southeast Asia. EV adoption has barely started in these countries and regions, yet they are key for



The 2022 GMC Hummer EV Pickup.

JIM FRENK-FPI STUDIOS/GMC/TNS



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

The new 2023 Toyota bZ4X electric car is displayed Thursday, Feb. 10, 2022, as the Chicago Auto Show returns to McCormick Place.

the growth in global EV adoption to continue once the larger markets start to saturate. There are several encouraging signs. In India's three-wheeler market, over 50% of sales are already electric. Southeast Asia markets like Vietnam already have relatively high adoption of electric two-wheelers. And parts of Latin America are leading the way on electric buses and are starting to focus on electrifying taxis.

Perhaps most importantly, the models available in China's EV market show how electric mobility can be very compelling for lower-middle

class consumers in emerging markets. The best-selling EV in China so far this year is the Hongguang Mini, which retails for just \$4,700.

Models like that, combined with a big push on electric kei cars from Japanese automakers, and more electric motorcycles and scooters, will help the rest of the world make the jump to electric mobility. There are other benefits, too. The Hongguang Mini weighs just 560 kilograms (1,235 pounds), compared to more than 4,000 kg for the recently launched electric GMC Hummer, which has a battery pack

almost 20 times the size. With battery raw material costs soaring, scaled-down EVs look much more like the sustainable mobility solution the world needs.

The next few years will bring remarkable progress on EV adoption, but it's worth keeping in mind just what a huge task it is to convert the world's vehicle fleet. BNEF estimates that there are 1.2 billion light-duty passenger vehicles on the road globally. At the end of 2022, just over 2% of them will be electric. There's still a long way to go. But the momentum is building.

MOTORMOUTH: Why is engine light on?

Q: I have a Chevy and it has 154,550 miles. We bought a keyed gas cap because we thought that we could protect our car from having the gas stolen. All of a sudden, the engine light went on. I went to an Auto Zone store and they did a Fix Finder report. It showed we had an EVAP, Emission Control System Leak detected. I figured it was the new gas cap, which was not easy to put on. Decided to put the old one back, thinking maybe the threads were compromised. Turned the engine light off, per instructions. Went back to Auto Zone and still getting the same diagnosis. They told me to inspect the fuel cap

gasket. How worried should I be?

A: The error code that the Auto Zone folks got is most often a bad fuel cap or its gasket. Your first concern is that your car will not pass its next emissions inspection. Although the car will run fine, it is polluting the air. But the cap is not the only source of problems. There is a charcoal canister designed to temporarily hold vapors and then there are various vapor lines, solenoids and other stuff. Since a new fuel cap didn't solve the problem, you will need a professional technician to examine the system with a computerized scan tool to isolate the culprit.

Q: Since Car Talk is no longer with us you have been my main source of auto advice. I've had a car in my life since the early 1960s (a Pontiac Catalina) and have witnessed many changes since then. One of them seems to be how the glass on the windows now has the property of rain beading on their surface instead of running down and off. My rear window is completely covered with water during a rainstorm and it is impossible to see what is behind me. Am I imagining this or are they treated differently than they were back then?

A: I am not aware of factory rain repelling coatings on the car glass. You didn't say what

car you are driving, but if it is boxy vehicle, eddy currents in the airflow could be creating a dead area or vacuum area in the back. I miss Click and Clack, too.

Q: I check the oil level regularly on my 2014 Kia Soul Plus. I have it serviced regularly at the dealership and in the eight years that we have owned it, it has 40,290 miles on it. I have the oil changed twice a year to be on the safe side, since I average only 5,000 miles per year. I check the level myself between changes. When I checked it this time, it showed the oil on the dipstick to be halfway between the two marks. I went into the dealership to check if this was OK. The service adviser told me

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



this is right where it should be. I went online to get an answer, and one site said “in the middle” between the two marks, and another site said, nearer the top mark. Who is right?

A: If you look closely at the two marks, the upper

mark indicates full and lower mark indicates the need for a quart of oil to be added. Many dipsticks have this engraved onto the stick. In between is the safe operating area. You can forget the twice-a-year oil changes. Once a year is plenty.

Life & Style

‘Cabaret,’ ‘Life of Pi’ win big at UK’s stage Olivier Awards

LONDON (AP)—An intimate, sold-out production of “Cabaret” was the big winner at Sunday’s Olivier Awards, taking seven prizes including acting trophies for its high-voltage stars, Eddie Redmayne and Jessie Buckley. Literary adaptation “Life of Pi” took five awards including best new play.

“Cabaret” was named best musical revival at the ceremony, which saw the Oliviers—Britain’s equivalent of Broadway’s Tony Awards—return to live collective prizegiving after a three-year break imposed by the coro-

navirus pandemic.

Redmayne and Buckley won lead acting prizes for their roles as the Emcee and Sally Bowles in a production of “Cabaret” that transformed London’s Playhouse Theatre into the Kit Kat Club in 1930s Berlin. Liza Sadovy and Elliot Levey won supporting performer awards for the same production, which continues its London run with new leads—and is rumored to be Broadway-bound.

Buckley, who was praised by Redmayne as “one of the greats,” appeared overwhelmed to have won.



AP
Jessie Buckley, left, and Eddie Redmayne arrive for the Laurence Olivier Awards at the Royal Albert Hall, London, Sunday April 10, 2022.

“It’s my worst nightmare and my biggest dream all at once,” she said.

“Life of Pi,” adapted from Yann Martel’s best-selling novel about a boy adrift at sea with a tiger, was voted best new play. Hiran Abeysekera was

named the best actor in a play as title character Pi, while—in a first—the supporting actor prize went to seven performers who collectively play the show’s puppet tiger.

Fred Davis, one of the seven, said it was “a landmark

moment for puppetry.”

A stage adaptation of a time-traveling 1980s film favorite, “Back to the Future – The Musical,” was named best new musical.

The black-tie ceremony at London’s Royal Albert Hall was the first full Oliviers show since 2019. Theaters were shut when Britain went into lockdown in March 2020, weeks before the scheduled 2020 Oliviers ceremony.

Britain’s stage community came out in force Sunday to celebrate—but also to reflect on a tough couple of years that saw all U.K. theaters closed for months at a stretch, for the first time since World War II.

The war in Ukraine was also on many minds. Several award winners spoke in support of Ukraine’s fight against

Russian invasion, and the Ukrainian mezzo-soprano Ksenia Nikolaieva performed her country’s national anthem during the show.

“Cabaret” director Rebecca Frecknall took the directing trophy, and said the war in Ukraine gave John Kander and Fred Ebb’s musical about the collapse of democracy and rise of fascism in Germany added poignancy.

“In a way it’s quite sad that every time it’s on it feels like it’s been written for today,” she said.

In the non-musical categories, Sheila Atim was named best actress for multidimensional relationship drama “Constellations.” Liz Carr won the best supporting actress prize for playing a determined doctor in a revival of 1980s AIDS-crisis play “The Normal Heart.”

Mechanic reaps windfall from art in Connecticut dumpster

WATERBURY, Conn. (AP)—A trove of paintings and other artwork found in an abandoned barn has turned out to be worth millions.

Notified by a contractor, Waterbury auto mechanic Jared Whipple retrieved the dirt-covered pieces in 2017 from a dumpster containing materials from a barn in Watertown. Whipple later found out they were by Francis Hines, an abstract expressionist who died in 2016 at 96 and had kept his work stored in the barn, Hearst Connecticut Media Group reported.

Hines was renowned for his “wrapping” pieces, in which fabric is wrapped around an object. His art has been compared to that of Christo and Jeanne-Claude, who became famous for wrapping installations around Europe, including

the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Hines wrapped more than 10 buildings in New York including the Washington Square Arch, JFK Airport and the Port Authority Bus Terminal, art curator and historian Peter Hastings Falk told the news outlet.

The hundreds of pieces of art retrieved by Whipple included paintings, sculptures and small drawings. Hastings Falk estimated the “wrapped” paintings can be sold at around \$22,000 apiece and his drawings at around \$4,500.

Whipple showed some of the pieces at a gallery in Waterbury last year, and recently decided to sell some of the art. He is collaborating with Hollis Taggart, a New York City-based gallery, on exhibits in New York and Connecticut in shows beginning next month.

‘Sonic 2’ steals weekend box office, but ‘Ambulance’ stalls

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP FILM WRITER

“Sonic the Hedgehog 2” sped to the top of the charts in its opening weekend, earning an impressive \$71 million according to studio estimates Sunday. Paramount’s PG-rated sequel easily bested the weekend’s other major newcomer, Michael Bay’s “Ambulance,” which faltered in theaters.

“Sonic 2,” which brings back the first film’s director, writers and cast, including James Marsden, Jim Carrey and Ben Schwartz, who voices the blue video game character, opened in 4,234 locations and actually surpassed its prede-

cessor’s opening weekend. The first “Sonic the Hedgehog” opened over the Presidents Day holiday weekend in February 2020, earning \$58 million in its first three days.

“The normal pattern domestically is that sequels slide a little bit,” said Chris Aronson, the president of domestic distribution for Paramount. “But we certainly bucked that trend.”

For a sequel to open 22% above the first, Aronson added, is “quite remarkable.”

“Sonic 2” got mixed to positive reviews from critics and audiences were even more enthusiastic. They gave the CG/live-action hybrid a strong “A” CinemaScore.

“The filmmakers did a great job of being in service of not only the general audience but Sonic fans themselves,” Aronson said. “Many feel it’s a bigger, better film than the first one.”

It’s an important weekend not just for the “Sonic” franchise, but for PG-rated family films too. Comscore senior media analyst Paul Dergarabedian said that one of the big questions of the pandemic was whether families would return to movie theaters with seemingly limitless viewing options available at home. According to exit polls, families made up 58% of the “Sonic 2” audience.

“There’s been some indi-

cation that they wanted to go back with movies like ‘Sing 2,’ but it’s moved in fits and starts,” said Dergarabedian. “This says once and for all that families want to go back. It’s a really good indicator of things to come for family films in 2022 with ‘Lightyear’ and the next ‘Minions’ movie.”

“Sonic 2” is also the latest in a string of theatrical hits for Paramount in 2022, including “Scream,” “Jackass Forever” and “The Lost City,” which is still in the top five.

“A lot of credit goes to our marketing and distribution teams,” Aronson said. “We’ve been judicious about picking our dates and knowing who our audience was for each.”

Difference of opinion ends longtime friendships

DEAR ABBY: The pandemic has put a strain on relationships. Last year, I lost my best friend of 40 years over the COVID vaccines. I believe the vaccine helps to keep me safe, as well as helps my family and friends. This friend decided he and his family would not take the jab. He quit his job rather than get vaccinated. This caused a rift so wide that, in his eyes, he and his family could not continue being friends with our family. I’m sad about it.

The big problem my wife and I are contending with concerns our 8-year-old daughter. She has been best friends with my (former) best friend’s daughter since birth. There have been eight years of sleepovers, birthdays, park visits, get-togethers and everything in between. We haven’t seen them in six months. We can’t keep telling our daughter the pandemic is the reason she can’t see her best friend. This situation is so simple and so complicated. What do I tell my daughter about her best friend?

VICTIM OF THE TIMES

DEAR VICTIM: Tell your daughter the truth—that her friend’s parents will no longer allow it. Then explain why. That way she won’t think that this is in any way her fault.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently contacted by my graduating class to help organize a reunion. Since then, one of the organizers has decided that our committee is an inseparable trio who

must get together regularly by Zoom and occasionally in person.

We were not in touch before the reunion and we have little in common, but I can tell she’s lonely, so I’ve indulged her so far. However, she now wants to convene periodically for long weekends at a nearby inn. I do not want to leave my spouse for long weekends or spend money and time on a person whom I don’t care to befriend.

When I’ve tried to demur with “unavailability” excuses, she insists we are a trio and we simply will wait a few weeks until I can find an open date. I don’t want to be rude, but I can’t figure out how to politely tell her that I have no interest in accepting her suggestions for an extended slumber party. How should I handle this?

RELUCTANT ALUMNA IN THE WEST

DEAR ALUMNA: Handle it by being frank with this needy individual. Tell her, “This isn’t going to happen. I do not wish to leave my husband for a weekend. I don’t mind helping with the reunion, but your demands on my time have increased to the point where they are too much for me.”

DEAR ABBY: The season of pleasant weather and outdoor concerts is approaching. Invariably, we end up sitting by the chatterboxes. These folks seem oblivious to anyone else, including the performers and the rest of us who want to enjoy

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



the performance. I realize these are free concerts, but I don’t want to have to listen to these rude people. Any suggestions for silencing them so we can hear what the rest of us came for?

DISGUSTED IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR DISGUSTED: Keep your tone civil. You might ask, “Would you please talk more quietly? We are trying to enjoy the performance.” However, if they aren’t receptive to your suggestion, consider moving as far away from them as possible.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

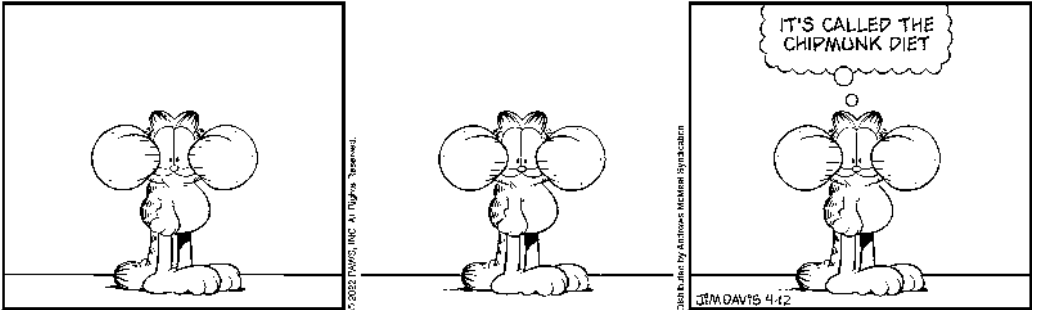
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



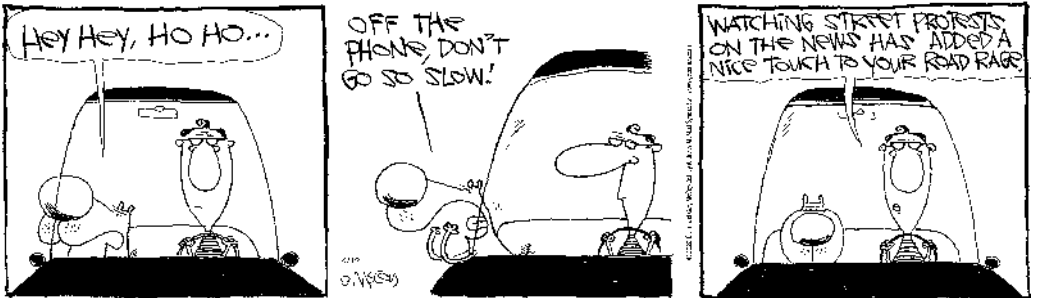
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

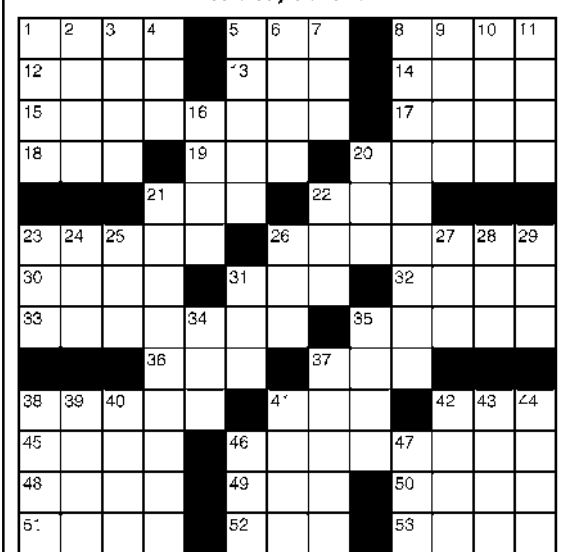
- 1 Courts
- 5 Hotel amenity
- 8 "The Wizard of Oz" author
- 12 Ticklish Muppet
- 13 Search for gold
- 14 Eight (Pref.)
- 15 Tofu
- 17 42, in old Rome
- 18 Nine-digit ID
- 19 Scrap
- 20 Racing shell
- 21 "— voyage!"
- 22 Outback bird
- 23 Sag
- 26 Move like a butterfly
- 30 Continental coin
- 31 Triage ctrs.
- 32 Diggs of "Private Practice"
- 33 Hitchcock thriller

DOWN

- 1 Spiders' snares
- 2 Spanish cheers
- 3 Muscat's land
- 4 Junior
- 5 Rebuff
- 6 Fraction center
- 7 Moreover
- 8 Utility knife
- 9 Advocacy org.
- 10 Gas co., for one
- 11 Drudgery
- 16 Hen pen
- 20 Dallas sch.
- 21 Jamie Foxx film of 1997
- 22 Golfer Ernie
- 23 Actor Patel
- 24 Street, in Montreal
- 25 Bruins legend
- 26 To and —
- 27 Levy
- 28 Storm center
- 29 Roulette bet
- 31 Id counterpart
- 34 Cyclades isle
- 35 Swerve
- 37 Dish
- 38 Drain blockage
- 39 Hindu royal
- 40 Exceeding
- 41 Animation frames
- 42 Biceps, in gym-speak
- 43 Grade-school basics
- 44 Jrs.' exam
- 46 Slugger's need
- 47 "Home-land" org.

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Saoirse Ronan, 28; Claire Danes, 43; Retta, 52; Ed O'Neill, 76.

Happy Birthday: Make your move. Consider what makes you happy, and push to incorporate it into your daily routine. Self-improvement, honing your skills and setting yourself up for advancement will give you the confidence to go one step further than you've ever gone. Live up to your expectations, and the rewards you receive will give you hope for a better future. Your numbers are 5, 13, 20, 29, 32, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Follow through with intentions. Don't let anyone push you in a direction you don't care to go. Follow your instincts and your heart, and take charge. It's up to you to pursue your goals and take responsibility for your happiness. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take the initiative to get things done. Don't wait for someone to make a move. Step up and take charge. Your independence and leadership qualities will help you get things done and get ahead. Set high standards and expectations. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make your point heard. Be direct about what you want and why. Set guidelines and boundaries, and stick to your plan. You don't have to keep up with anyone. The only person you must please is yourself. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Offer exciting suggestions. Bring about change that makes a difference to the outcome of something that matters to you. Update your

look or your qualifications, and it will help you convince others that you are ready for a new challenge. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Common sense will pay off. Put more thought into the way you handle your finances. Stretching your intake to fit your overhead will take pressure off you. Use charm and finesse, and you will make an impression on someone influential. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen carefully, and respond with clarity. Share your vision, and consider similar experiences as guidelines to secure getting what you want. A good connection with someone who shares your sentiments will give you the courage to pursue your goal. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do it yourself if you want something done. Make use of your time and talent, and you'll reach your destination. A reward will give you the incentive to pick up the pace and set your sights on something that encourages growth. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Tweak your space at work or home to make it convenient. Don't begrudge yourself the time or pleasure of something that brings you joy or peace of mind. Refuse to let anyone dump responsibilities that don't belong to you in your lap. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take better care of your health and well-being. Don't take a risk or let someone put you in a vulnerable position. Stay on top of your expenses, and refuse to overspend on something you don't need. When pushed, push back. **

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Say what's on your mind, but be ready to back your claims. Attitude will play a role in how well you do and who you impress. If a little charm is coupled with common sense and a willingness to compromise, you'll gain ground. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Do your homework; jot down facts and figures to back your words. Preparation is essential if you don't want someone to railroad you into something unfavorable. Show compassion and offer suggestions, but do your own thing. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Leave nothing to chance or unfinished. When it comes to delivering your promises, accuracy and promptness are the best ways to gain respect. Self-improvement will turn out better than anticipated and boost your confidence. Romance is on the rise. ***

Birthday Baby: You are brave, disciplined and enthusiastic. You are prompt and helpful.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

A VISIT TO WALES Solution: 8 letters

ECRW FEN ID P NORTH
C NOBRE CON AM RON R
A HRATRC ARREG CY Y
N MAASH BRVK S OUTH
G U TNHTEA AS IWB IT
L SN ENGLAND TEE CR
E EMILEUI CG ERDLE
S UHITDL ANAO IDTM
E MCGNEW ALESRGCS
Y SEFFIDRACCTE U W
B SLBEONCANOE L DA
N WRTURAG LANKEEN
E I AUTTRETAWARUS
T LHBODNANTYLTQE
S DPORTMEIRIONAA

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Anglesey, Aqueduct, Bangor, Beddgelert, Bodnant, Brecon, Canoe, Cardiff, Carreg, Castles, Channel, Cilgerran, City, Coastline, Corwy, Dinefwr, England, Estate, Gower, Harlech, Lake, Laugharne, Merthyr, Mining, Museums, Norman, North, Parks, Portmeirion, Raglan, Site, Slate, South, Swansea, Tenby, Three, Tours, Tlbe, United, Vale, Wales, Water, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Mrs. Robinson
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 53 through 68, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Doncic strains left calf in Mavericks' regular-season finale



DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic strained his left calf in Dallas' 130-120 victory over San Antonio in what turned out to be a meaningless regular-season finale Sunday night, putting the superstar's status in question for the playoff-bound Mavericks.

Doncic wouldn't have even been eligible for the game had the NBA not rescinded his 16th technical foul of the season two nights earlier against Portland. Without the NBA's decision, Doncic would have served a one-game suspension.

The two-time All-Star had turned to run to the defensive end late in the third quarter when he pulled up after the first step and stopped.

Doncic, who led Dallas with 26 points, nine assists and eight rebounds, called for the medical staff while reaching for his calf after play was stopped and almost immediately went to the locker room. Coach Jason Kidd said after the game he didn't have any update on the injury, but Doncic's status could be in doubt with fourth-seeded Dallas set to open the playoffs next weekend against Utah.

The Mavericks had a chance to move up the third seed, but needed New Orleans to beat Golden State when the Pelicans were resting several regulars. The Warriors won 128-107.

The Spurs were already locked into the final spot in the play-in tournament as the 10th seed in the Western Conference. Keldon Johnson scored 24 points for San Antonio, which will play ninth-seeded New Orleans on Wednesday. The winner plays the loser between No. 7 seed Minnesota and the eighth-seeded Los Angeles Clippers for the No. 8 seed.

Warriors 128, Pelicans 107

In New Orleans, Klay Thompson made seven 3-pointers and scored 41 points and Golden State beat New Orleans to take the third seed in the Western Conference playoff.

Jordan Poole scored 22 for the Warriors, who opened up a 22-point lead in the second quarter and held on to close out the regular season on a five-game winning streak.

The Pelicans were already locked into the ninth spot in the Western Conference and limited playing time for the usual starters ahead of their single-elimination play-in game on Wednesday against San Antonio. Brandon Ingram (right hamstring), Herbert Jones (bruised right tibia) and Jonas Valanciunas (sore right ankle) sat out, as well as top scoring reserve Devonte' Graham.

Nets 134, Pacers 126

In New York, Kyrie Irving scored 35 points, Kevin Du-



Dallas Mavericks' Luka Doncic (77) reaches for his lower leg after suffering an unknown lower leg injury in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the San Antonio Spurs, Sunday, April 10, 2022, in Dallas.

rant had 20 points, a career-high 16 assists and 10 rebounds and Brooklyn beat Indiana to locked up seventh place in East.

The Nets will host No. 8 Cleveland on Tuesday in the play-in tournament, with the winner moving into the playoffs as the No. 7 seed. The loser will have a second chance by hosting the winner of the game between the Nos. 9 and 10 seeds on Friday.

Brooklyn and Cleveland both finished 44-38, but the Nets won the season series to take the tiebreaker.

Oshae Brissett had 28 points for Indiana. The Pacers lost their final 10 games to finish 25-57.

Cavaliers 133, Bucks 115

In Cleveland, Kevin Love made eight 3-pointers and scored 32 points and Cleveland beat Milwaukee to take the No. 8 play-in spot — and a matchup against Brooklyn.

Love did all his damage in 15 minutes, matching his career high for 3s and adding 10 rebounds. Rookie Evan Mobley added 18 points and 10 rebounds.

The defending champion Bucks rested superstar Giannis Antetokounmpo and their other regulars for the regular-season finale. Milwaukee rookie Sandro Mamukelashvili had a season-high 28 points and added 13 rebounds.

76ers 118, Pistons 106

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid sat out after he clinched the scoring title and James Harden joined him on the bench, leaving Shake Milton and Tyrese Maxey to lead Philadelphia past Detroit.

The 76ers finished with the

No. 4 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs and will open against Toronto. Milton scored 30 points, and Maxey and Paul Reed had 25.

Allen Iverson was in the house and the last Sixer to win a scoring title—four, actually—got to share the arena with this season's champ. Embiid finished at 30.6 points per game. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo also rested Sunday, finishing at 29.9 points.

Luka Garza led the Pistons with 20 points and 10 rebounds.

Kings 116, Suns 109

In Phoenix, Justin Holiday, Damian Jones and Donte DiVincenzo each scored 19 points and Sacramento beat Phoenix.

At 64-18, Phoenix finished with the best mark in franchise history and had eight more victories than other team in the NBA. Sacramento was 30-52 for its 16th straight losing season.

The Suns rested most of their top players in preparation for the playoffs, including Chris Paul, Devin Booker, Deandre Ayton and Jae Crowder. Coach Monty Williams said his major goal against the Kings was helping some of the backups gain confidence heading into the postseason.

Mikal Bridges started but played just six minutes. He extended his games streak to 309 games, which is every possible regular-season game since he came into the league four seasons ago. It is the longest active streak in the NBA.

Landry Shamet led the Suns with 27 points.

Lakers 146, Nuggets 141, OT

In Denver, Malik Monk had a career-best 41 points and

Austin Reaves set career highs with 31 points, 16 rebounds and 10 assists to help Los Angeles outlast Denver in overtime in a season finale devoid of star power.

The Lakers were eliminated from the play-in tournament Tuesday and the Nuggets wrapped up a playoff spot Thursday. Denver is No. 6 in the West and will play Golden State in the first round.

The Lakers sat LeBron James (ankle), Anthony Davis (right foot), Carmelo Anthony (non-COVID illness), Russell Westbrook (right shoulder) and Dwight Howard. Coach Frank Vogel said James did not make the trip because he was scheduled to have an MRI on his right ankle.

Markus Howard had a career-high 25 points for the Nuggets.

Hawks 130, Rockets 114

In Houston, Trae Young had 28 points and 11 assists and Atlanta wrapped up the regular season with a victory over Houston that didn't improve its postseason position.

The Hawks finished ninth in the Eastern Conference and will host 10th-seeded Charlotte on Wednesday night in the play-in tournament.

Jalen Green, the second overall pick in the draft, had a season-high 41 points for the Rocket. The lost their seventh straight game to finish 20-62, giving them the NBA's worst record for a second straight season.

Celtics 139, Grizzlies 110

In Memphis, Tenn., Jayson Tatum scored 31 points, Jaylen Brown added 18 and Boston secured the second seed in the East, beating Memphi-

Al Horford added 13 points as the Celtics shot close to 55% against the short-handed Grizzlies.

Santi Aldama led Memphis with 20 points, and Ziaire Williams finished with 18 points. John Konchar had his first career triple-double with 17 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists. Kyle Anderson scored 16 points.

Hornets 124, Wizards 108

In Charlotte, N.C., Terry Rozier had 25 points, LaMelo Ball added 24 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists and Charlotte beat Washington

The Hornets finished 43-39 — 10 more wins than a year ago in an abbreviated 72-game season — and will be the 10th seed in the East for the second straight year.

Rui Hachimura had 21 points for Washington.

Magic 125, Heat 111

In Orlando, Fla., Mo Bamba and R.J. Hampton each scored 21 points and Orlando beat Miami.

Victor Oladipo had 40 points, 10 rebounds and seven assists for the Heat. They wrapped up the top seed in the Eastern Conference on Thursday night and rested several players.

Oladipo, playing in only his eighth game of the season after recovering from surgery on his right quad 11 months ago, scored 25 points in the first half.

Bulls 124, Timberwolves 120

In Minneapolis, Patrick Williams scored a career-high 35 points and Ayo Dosunmu had 26 points in a season-high 45 minutes and Chicago beat Minnesota with both teams resting regulars before

the postseason.

Troy Brown Jr. added 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulls, who played without four starters and stopped a four-game losing streak. The Bulls already had the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference bracket secured. They'll face No. 3 seed Milwaukee in the first round.

Nathan Knight had 17 points and eight rebounds for Minnesota. Locked into seventh place in the Western Conference earlier in the week, the Timberwolves will host the Los Angeles Clippers in a play-in game Tuesday night.

Knicks 105, Raptors 94

In New York, Obi Toppin scored a career-high 42 points, Immanuel Quickley had 34 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds and New York beat Toronto to finish a disappointing season.

The Knicks finished 37-45 after making the playoffs last season, but second-year players Toppin and Quickley ended on high notes. Quickley had career highs in points and assists and equaled his best night on the boards.

Toronto held out Pascal Siakam and Fred VanVleet in their final game of the regular season ahead of their first-round playoff matchup with fourth-seeded Philadelphia. Chris Boucher scored 21 points for the Raptors.

Clippers 138, Thunder 88

In Los Angeles, Amir Coffey had career highs of 32 points and 13 rebounds and Los Angeles routed depleted Oklahoma City to end the regular season on a five-game winning streak.

The Clippers finished 42-40, a major accomplishment after playing the entire season without injured superstar Kawhi Leonard — and with Paul George only returning recently after missing 43 games with an elbow injury. The Clippers are at Minnesota on Tuesday in the play-in tournament.

Zavier Simpson and Georgios Kalaitzakis scored 17 points each for Oklahoma City.

Jazz 111, Trail Blazers 80

In Portland, Ore., Juancho Hernangomez had a season-high 22 points and Utah beat Portland to take the fifth seed in the Western Conference.

The Jazz will face fourth-seeded Dallas in the opening round of the playoffs. Rudy Gobert added 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Jazz, while top scorer Donovan Mitchell sat out of the game with a non-COVID-19 illness.

Reggie Perry, who signed a 10-day deal with Portland on March 30 that was extended through Sunday, had a career-high 20 points.

Guardians rout Royals for first win, rookie Kwan 5 hits



KANSAS CITY, Mo.
(AP)—The

Cleveland Guardians won for the first time with their new name as hot-starting rookie Steven Kwan went 5 for 5 on Sunday in a 17-3 romp over the Kansas City Royals.

Oscar Mercado hit a grand slam during a five-RBI performance and Owen Miller drove in a career-high four runs. Cleveland had lost its first two games since changing this season to the Guardians from the Indians, its name since 1915.

Kwan had four singles and a double, was hit by a pitch and scored four runs. The 24-year-old outfielder made his major league debut on opening day and is 8 for 10 in three games so far, reaching base in 12 of 14 plate appearances.

"I know it's three games in, but nobody wants to not get excited," Guardians manager Terry Francona said. "When our young guys want to do things like that, it is exciting."

Kwan hit .469 in spring training after batting a combined .301 in three minor league seasons.

"I'm not surprised about what (Kwan) is doing," Mercado said. "He is such a good player, knows himself and knows what he can do. He is such a sparkplug and it is going to be awesome to watch him play this year."

Held to a total of one run while dropping the first two games of the series, Cleveland broke loose with 22 hits. José Ramírez, who homered and three hits, and Amed Rosario, who had four hits, each drove in three runs.

"It was good for everybody to let our offense loosen up a little bit," Francona said.

Mercado connected for his first career grand slam off Taylor Clarke in the first inning, capping a six-run burst. The Guardians made it 10-0 in the second and Mercado added an RBI triple in the fourth.

Ramírez and Miller each contributed three hits.

Pitching with a huge cushion, Cal Quantrill (1-0) tossed five innings and allowed two runs and four hits.

Kris Bubic (0-1) got just two outs and was tagged for five runs on three hits with two walks.

Royals rookie Bobby Witt Jr. hit a two-run double.

"It's hard for a club to fight back when they're putting up big numbers in the first and the second," Royals manager Mike Matheny said. "We had an opportunity to keep it close, and we didn't, and it just got out of hand. Those are the kind you learn from and move on from."

Red Sox 4, Yankees 3

In New York, Bobby Dalbec hit a tiebreaking solo homer in the sixth inning and Boston avoided a season-opening sweep against longtime rival New York.

Dalbec connected off reliever Clarke Schmidt (0-1) for his first of the season.

The Red Sox ended an eight-game regular-season skid against New York — a stretch that doesn't include their victory in last year's AL wild-card game. The rivals don't play again until July 7.

Rookie right-hander Kutter Crawford (1-1) threw two of Boston's 5 2/3 scoreless relief innings for his first big league win, and Jake Diekmann pitched the ninth for his first save. J.D. Martinez had an RBI double, one of the team's five hits.

Anthony Rizzo made it 3-all with a two-run single in the fourth for the Yankees. Giancarlo Stanton had three hits. Stanton had homered in six straight games against the Red Sox, including the postseason.

Diekmann struck out Aaron Judge, Stanton and Joey Gallo in the ninth.

Reds 6, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Hard-throwing Hunter Greene won his major league debut, reaching 100 mph with 20 of 92 pitches and topping out at 101.6 mph. The 22-year-old right-hander, the second overall pick in the 2017 amateur draft, allowed three runs, four hits and three walks with seven strikeouts in five innings.

Kyle Farmer hit a two-run single in a five-run third.

Ian Anderson (0-1), making his first start since pitching five hitless innings to win Game 3 of the World Series, allowed a career-high five runs, five walks and three hits in 2 2/3 innings.

Rays 8, Orioles 0

In St. Petersburg, Fla., two-time Cy Young Award winner Corey Kluber allowed three hits in 4 2/3 innings on his 36th birthday as Tampa Bay completed an opening three-game sweep and improved to 21-1 against Baltimore since the beginning of last year.

Brandon Lowe hit a two-run homer off Tyler Wells (0-1), while Wander Franco had his second three-hit game in three days and drove in a pair of runs as the Rays beat the Orioles for the 15th straight time and matched the fastest start to a season in club history.

Lefty Jeffrey Springs (1-0) came on to get the only batter he faced to end the fifth. part of a six-hitter.



Cleveland Guardians' Oscar Mercado (35) Ernie Clement, center, and Steven Kwan, right, celebrate their team's 17-3 win over the Kansas City Royals at the end of a baseball game in Kansas City, Mo., Sunday, April. 10, 2022.

Rangers 12, Blue Jays 6

In Toronto, Corey Seager capped a six-run fourth inning with a go-ahead single, and the Texas Rangers rallied from a 6-1 deficit to overcome Vladimir Guerrero Jr.'s 467-foot home run, a third-inning drive off Spencer Howard that was the longest of Guerrero's career.

Brad Miller had four RBIs to key the Rangers, and Nick Solak scored four runs and homered.

Brock Burke (1-0) struck out five in two innings, one of five Rangers relievers who combined for six shutout innings Texas avoided its first 0-3 start since 2017.

Julian Merryweather (0-1) was the loser. George Springer hit his 44th leadoff homer.

Nationals 4, Mets 2

In Washington, Nelson Cruz hit his 450th home run and added a tiebreaking two-run single in a three-run eighth inning, preventing New York from an opening four-game sweep.

Lucius Fox, who started in his major league debut, dragged a safety squeeze sacrifice bunt to drive in the tying run off Trevor Williams (0-1).

Cruz, who put the Nationals ahead in the first inning with his first home run for Washington, grounded a fastball up the middle and just past shortstop Francisco Lindor.

Kyle Finnegan (1-0) pitched a perfect eighth, and Tanner Rainey worked around Mark Canha's leadoff single in the ninth for his first save.

Twins 10, Mariners 4

In Minneapolis, Gary Sánchez hit a grand slam into the third deck and Byron Buxton had two of Minnesota's six home runs in the Twins' first victory this season. The Twins' first 13 runs scored on homers, the longest for a team at a season's start since 1900, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Carlos Correa launched his first homer for Minnesota. a 458-foot drive, and Max Kepler and Jorge Polanco also went deep. Sánchez added an RBI double to give him five RBIs for the Twins, who totaled eight hits over 2-1 and 4-3 defeats on Friday and Saturday.

Bailey Ober (1-0) logged five innings for the win, handed more than enough cushion to withstand a three-run homer in the third by Mitch Haniger.

Mariners left-hander Marco Gonzales (0-1) gave up three homers.

White Sox 10, Tigers 1

In Detroit, Tim Anderson had two doubles and a single in his first game following a two-game suspension for bumping umpire Tim Timmons last Sept. 27.

Andrew Vaughn homered and drove in four runs for the White Sox, who won twice in the opening three-game series.

Kyle Crick (1-0) pitched a hitless fifth. Tariq Skubal (0-1) gave up five runs and seven hits in four innings.

Athletics 4, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Billy McKinney homered and Daulton Jef-

feries (1-0) and four relievers combined on a three-hitter to give manager Mark Kotsay his first win since replacing Bob Melvin.

Elvis Andrus hit a one-out double off Bailey Falter (0-1) and scored on Seth Brown's bloop single to left in the sixth that gave Oakland its first lead this season.

Pirates 9, Cardinals 4

In St. Louis, Michael Chavis hit a go-ahead grand slam as Pittsburgh overcame a three-run, third-inning deficit.

Chavis made his first start of the season and homered off left-hander Steven Matz (0-1), who allowed seven runs and nine hits over three innings in his first start since signing a \$44 million, four-year contract.

Miguel Yajure (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings.

Brewers 5, Cubs 4

In Chicago, Mike Brosseau's first career pinch-hit homer snapped a seventh-inning tie against Daniel Norris (0-1), and Willy Adames and Rowdy Tellez also went deep as Milwaukee won its first game.

Brad Boxberger (1-0) worked the seventh, stranding a runner on third when Jonathan Villar was retired on a close call at first base that was upheld by a replay review. Devin Williams then got three outs before Josh Hader pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his first save.

Seiya Suzuki hit his first major league homer for Chicago, and Marcus Stroman al-

lowed one run and two hits in five innings in his Cubs debut.

Rockies 9, Dodgers 4

In Denver, C.J. Cron hit a two-run homer on an afternoon when a whipping wind with 40 mph gusts made flyballs an adventure, and Bud Black earned his 1,000th win as a major league manager.

Black improved to 351-360 with Colorado after going 649-713 with the San Diego Padres from 2007-15.

Jhoullys Chacin (1-0) earned the win by throwing 1 2/3 innings and striking out three. Ty Blach pitched four innings to pick up the save. Julio Urias (0-1) gave up six runs, three earned, over two innings.

Giants 3, Marlins 2

In San Francisco, Heliot Ramos had two hits and scored a run in his major league debut, and Mauricio Dubón added an RBI double for the Giants, who scored the decisive run in the third inning after a throwing error by Trevor Rogers (0-1).

Jorge Soler had three hits and a walk for the Marlins. Joey Wendle singled twice and scored two runs.

Jarlin Garcia (1-0) retired all six batters he faced. Dominic Leone pitched the ninth for his first save.

Astros 4, Angels 1

In Anaheim, Calif., Alex Bregman put the Astros ahead with a two-run single in the fifth, and José Urquidy yielded four hits over five innings. Chas McCormick had an RBI single, and rookie shortstop Jeremy Peña delivered three hits as the defending AL champions took three of four.

Urquidy (1-0) built on his solid 2021 with five resourceful innings, walking one and striking out two. Ryan Pressly pitched the ninth for his second save.

José Suarez (0-1) pitched two-hit ball into the fifth inning for Los Angeles, but yielded four walks and two runs before the Halos' bullpen had another inconsistent afternoon.

Padres 10, Diamondbacks 5

In San Diego, Jurickson Proffar hit a grand slam off Caleb Smith (0-1), Jorge Alfaro followed with another homer in a five-run second inning and San Diego won its third straight after losing the opener.

Right-hander Nabil Crismatt was the emergency starting pitcher for the Padres after Blake Snell was scratched just before the first pitch because of left adductor tightness.

Austin Adams (1-0) won with a scoreless inning of relief.

KHS Ayuyus top boys 500m in interscholastic va'a



LEIGH GASES

The Kagman High School boys team in action during the Public School System Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2021-2022 competition last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Beach in Susupe.

By **LEIGH GASES**

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CORRESPONDENT

Kagman High School dominated the boys 500m race of the Public School System In-

terscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2021-2022 last Saturday in the waters off Kilili Beach in Susupe.

The Kagman boys paddlers churned the water like there

was no tomorrow and finished first place in the one-lap race with a time of 3:13.370. That win was worth 5 points for the Ayuyus.

Saipan Southern High

School, coached by Joseph Weaver, took second about 14 seconds off the Ayuyus' pace with a time of 3:27.04. Marianas High School, coached by Eddie Johnson, came in last

with a time of 3:43.23.

In previous races last March 19 and 26, KHS came in second place both times but finally redeemed themselves by securing the top podium finish last Saturday.

The Ayuyus boys team includes Max Cruz, Aaron Ariola, Joedy Pinaula, Kenneth Kaipat, Jason Agulto, Jacoby Cabrera, Christian Ahas, Sebastian Muna, Matthew Anastacio, John Mensa, and Elbert Pinaula.

KHS outrigger canoe coach Jason Tarkong said the team finally showed this weekend that they still have what it takes to defend their championship.

"All athletes competing worked hard and sharpened their skillset. The KHS men's team came in first place on three of the four races they competed in. The Ayuyus still have some fine-tuning to do before the next and final sprint

competition race of the season which will be double points," he said.

In the men's 1,000m race also held last Saturday, SSHS came in first place with a time of 6:46.460 and received 5 points. KHS this time came in second in the two-lap race with a time of 6:58.500 and earned 3 points, while MHS lagged behind and finished last after crossing the finish line in 8:25.010 and received 1 point.

The results of the women's and coed outrigger canoe races will be published in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*. The next race day of the PSS Interscholastic Outrigger Canoe Race 2021-2022 will be held on April 23, 2022.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	51	31	.622	—
x-Philadelphia	51	31	.622	—
x-Toronto	48	34	.585	3
Brooklyn	44	38	.537	7
New York	37	45	.451	14

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Miami	53	29	.646	—
Atlanta	43	39	.524	10
Charlotte	43	39	.524	10
Washington	35	47	.427	18
Orlando	22	60	.268	31

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Milwaukee	51	31	.622	—
x-Chicago	46	36	.561	5
Cleveland	44	38	.537	7
Indiana	25	57	.305	26
Detroit	23	59	.280	28

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Memphis	56	26	.683	—
x-Dallas	52	30	.634	4
New Orleans	36	46	.439	20
San Antonio	34	48	.415	22
Houston	20	62	.244	36

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Utah	49	33	.598	—
x-Denver	48	34	.585	1
Minnesota	46	36	.561	3
Portland	27	55	.329	22
Oklahoma City	24	58	.293	25

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Phoenix	64	18	.780	—
x-Golden State	53	29	.646	11
L.A. Clippers	42	40	.512	22
L.A. Lakers	33	49	.402	31
Sacramento	30	52	.366	34

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division
z-clinched conference

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pedal for Health this April 24

By **MARK RABAGO**

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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan Unity Lions Club's 6th Annual Bike Race will take place on April 24 with over 100 participants expected to take part in the fundraiser.

Organizer Wilfredo Barbo said the race, dubbed Pedal for Health, will benefit the Lions Club's global causes

like diabetes, feeding the hungry, and treating those visually impaired and childhood cancer.

The SULC 6th Annual Bike Race will have two courses.

The one-lap long course will take bikers from Banzai Cliff to the Mobil Oil gas station in Tanapag, to the turnaround at the Million-Gallon Water Tank turnaround, before going back north to Suicide Cliff and Bird Island before returning to Banzai Cliff.



The one-lap easy course will have participants negotiate Banzai Cliff/Mobil Oil gas station/Banzai Cliff route. Both course will have categories for men's and women's MTB and road bike.

Online registration fee is

\$21 (PayPal payments accepted) and include an event T-shirt. SULC will be offering cash prizes only to the long course Top 3 finishers in the men's and women's road bike and MTB. First place gets \$100 and a plaque, second place receives \$75 and a medal, while third place takes home \$50 and a medal.

Michael Aparte smoked the competition in the mountain bike category of Saipan Unity Lions Club's 5th Annual Bike Race held in November last year. He finished with a time of 1:18:32. In the MTB short

TANIA

From Page 20

day to day, but probably an average of 6-7 miles a day."

She said she's not entirely sure yet what events she will partake in the Mini Games, which the CNMI will be hosting for the first time ever from

June 17 to 25 this year.

"I'm thinking about the 5K, 10K, and possibly the half marathon. Also, I wanna say congrats to everyone who ran the 2022 Saipan Marathon! I'm so glad that we were able to have the event because it was one of my favorite events back home. I wish I could've

been there to participate. Congrats to everyone!"

CNMI national track and field coach Dr. Ron Snyder congratulated Tan on her new record last weekend.

"We are very excited to see Tania branching out and excelling in other events. With her new NMI record in the

10,000m, I feel very confident that we will have a strong showing at the Mini Games and OAA Championships this year. On behalf of SIS, Northern Marianas Athletics and Run Saipan, I want to say how proud we are of Tania and her continued excellence!"

On Tan's Mini Games stint, Snyder said they're looking at entering her in the 10K and 5K with the 1,500m a probability.

"I would love to try her out in the steeplechase but it is the day before the 5,000 and that is too much risk of injury," he added.

LONGUSKI

From Page 20

dentially, Park University has won the 10K run in Marianas Visitors Authority's "Festival of Runs" a grand total of four times now, including last Satur-

day's win.

Chavez, for her part, beat out fellow CNMI National Triathlon Team member Heather Brook in a sprint to the finish line in the women's division of the 10K. The Saipan International School student tore

the tape in 46:54, a mere five seconds off Brook's time of 46:59. Lydia Tan came in third after clocking in at 54:52.

"It was pretty windy. I took on the 10K because I wanted to challenge myself and I'm trying to get a faster time...

Honestly. I didn't have much training because I'm really busy with soccer and I just came back from Guam," said Chavez after the race.

The results of the 5K run of the 2022 edition of the Saipan Marathon as well as the age

group winners of the half marathon, 10K, and 5K will be reported in the coming issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

The Saipan Marathon 2022 is a signature event of MVA and was organized with help from Northern Marianas Athletics.

LABAUSA

From Page 20

Guam Weightlifting Open now in the rearview mirror, she and the rest of the CNMI National Weightlifting Team for the Mini Games are now setting their sights on the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games set this coming June.

"The Mini Games will definitely be a different caliber with other Oceania countries

who have very hardworking and talented lifters. I do feel a little bit more pressure. However, all I can ask of myself is to do my best and to enjoy every moment. You know it's difficult to be an athlete, working full-time, and just dealing with life's demands in general, so for all the athletes in the CNMI who are feeling tired but giving their all toward this last stretch before the Mini Games, I'm proud of you and I am ex-

cited to see all of our hard work come to life in June."

Labausa also extended her thanks to her support group. "I am grateful to have such a supportive partner, along with my family, and friends. Every win or loss is dedicated to them."

Tudela, for his part, said the 2022 Guam Weightlifting Open Championships is just an opportunity to improve in the sport as he and his team-

mates ramp up for the Mini Games competition.

"Thoughts on the win are to just be more consistent with heavier lifts. Keep training and try to increase how much weight I can lift. Felt good to dust the rust off and step back on the platform after not competing for two to three years due to COVID-19," he said.

In all, Labausa and Tudela were among 35 weightlifters from seven different weight-

lifting clubs that competed in the 2022 Guam Weightlifting Open Championships.

In related news, CNMI Weightlifting is happy to announce that national weightlifting coach and athlete David Barnhouse has taken the next step in his journey to becoming the premier weightlifting coach in the Commonwealth by earning the USA Weightlifting Level 2 coaching certification.



**Doncic strains
left calf in
Mavericks' regular-
season finale**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**KHS Ayuyus top
boys 500m in
interscholastic
va'a**

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20 TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Tania sets new outdoor record in 10,000m

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The CNMI's Tania Tan set a new outdoor track record after this time finishing the 10,000m in 39:41 while competing for Fordham University in last weekend's Metropolitan Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

The record-setting run adds to the 20-year-old junior's three national distance records—all set this year. She set the 5,000m outdoor record with a time of 18:51.02 at the 2022 Colonial Relays last April 1.

Last March 19, Tan also reset the 3,000m outdoor record with a time of 10:58.76 at the Stony Brook Snow Flake Classic, which bested her former record set at the Micronesian Championships on Saipan. The 5,000m indoor CNMI

record also fell when she ran the distance with a time of 18:52:21 at the Metropolitan Championship last Feb. 4.

Tan told *Saipan Tribune* that she's just happy to finish the race. "I've never raced a 10K on a track before so it was all new to me and I had no expectations going into the race...I didn't feel as bad as I thought I would."

The Run Saipan board member said running the

10,000m was tough both physically and mentally.

"Physically because it's a long race (6.2 miles) but mentally as well because it's 25 laps on the track. I had to be sure I was mentally prepared as well. It was very much a mental race so I had to stay tough and focus on the race itself and get through it lap by lap. But now that I've raced it once, I know what to expect next time so that will hopefully prepare myself better the next time," she said.

Tan said the Fordham University track and field team is pretty much training every day and that—for all intents and purposes—serves as her training for the upcoming Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

"We train 6-7 days a week. The distances we run varies

See TANIA on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Fordham University's Tania Tan has two thumbs up after setting a new CNMI 10,000m outdoor record in last weekend in Metropolitan Outdoor Track and Field Championships.

Longuski, Chavez rule 10K run



Chavez



Longuski

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Veteran runner Keith Longuski and student-athlete Kaithlyn Chavez won the 10K run of the Saipan Marathon 2022 that took 113 participants a straight shot run from the starting line at the Hyatt Regency Saipan to the Ladera Building in Oleai and back last Saturday.

Longuski, a physician assistant who now works at the Kagman Health Center, completed the course in a time of 40:06. He was followed by Marianas High School student and Park University soccer commit Dev Bachani in 40:38. Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Michiteru Mita completed the Top 3 after crossing the finish line in 45:19.

Overall last Saturday's 10K run couldn't have been more perfect, according to Longuski.

"It was a beautiful run and it was pretty well organized and I think we had 307 people out there. The weather cooperated and there was no sun and a little breeze and it was a beautiful run along Beach Road," he said.

The Former NAIA Division track athlete for, coinci-

See LONGUSKI on Page 19

Labausa strikes gold, Tudela silver in Guam

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI National Weightlifting Team members Antonette Labausa and Joseph "Joey" Tudela won gold and silver, respectively, in the 2022 Guam Weightlifting Open Championships held last March 26 at the Fudoshin Fitness Center in Tamuning, Guam.

Labausa struck gold in the women's 76kg division after a lift of 74 kg in the snatch and a 93 kg lift in the clean and jerk for a total of 167 kg. Tudela, meanwhile, settled for the silver medal in the men's 89kg category with a 90 kg snatch and a 100 kg clean and jerk for a total of 190 kg.

After more than a year of no competition, Labausa said she's just happy to be back lifting with something at stake again.

"I think that this was a good meet to feel the competition feeling again that I haven't felt in over a year. I did my best that day to my

capability and I am proud of that. I don't consider it my best performance but I enjoyed myself and when things don't go as planned on the platform—I am glad to have got on the board to total. I was the only one in my weight class but you still have to put up a total. So, I was trying to push myself but again, it didn't go according to plan but that is okay," she said. Labausa said with the 2022

See LABAUSA on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Antonette Labausa, right, and Joseph "Joey" Tudela are all smiles after bagging gold and silver, respectively, in the 2022 Guam Weightlifting Open Championships held last March 26 at the Fudoshin Fitness Center in Tamuning, Guam.

066

DAYS LEFT UNTIL

**NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022**

JUNE 17-25, 2022